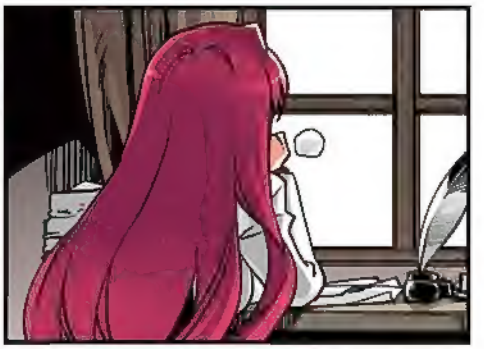
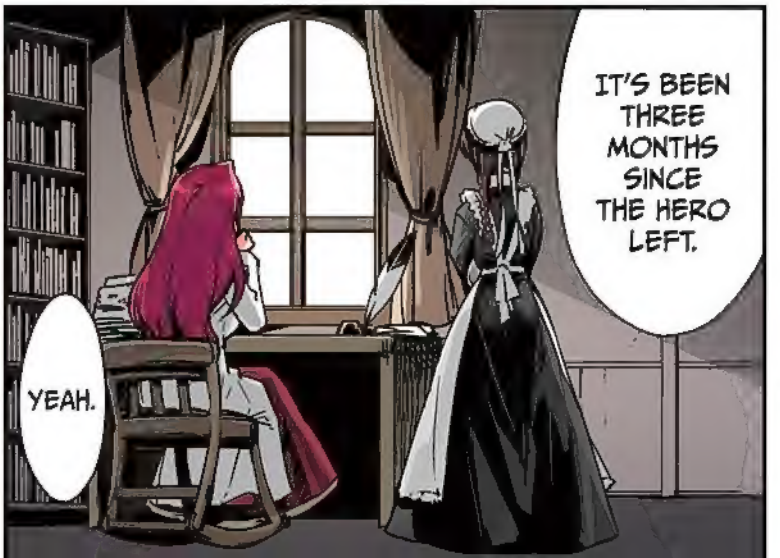
MAOYU
Archenemy and Hero
"Become mine, Hero" "I refuse!"
VOLUME 2
Art by
AKIRA ISHIDA
Original Work by
MAMARE TOUNO
Character Design by KEINOJOU MIZUTAMA and toi8

GULP

THAT'S GOOD.
YOU'RE GETTING AS GOOD AS THE CHIEF MAID AT MAKING TEA.
OH, NO.
I HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO.
MAOYU
Archenemy and Hero
CHAPTER 5

WHO KNOWS WHERE HE IS OR WHAT HE'S DOING.




IT'S BEEN THREE MONTHS SINCE THE HERO LEFT.
YEAH.

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Archenemy and Hero **CHAPTER 5**
I Am the Black Knight!

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Archenemy and Hero

CHAPTER 5
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CHAPTER 5 Archenemy and Hero 001

I Am the Black Knight!

CHAPTER 6 Archenemy and Hero 049

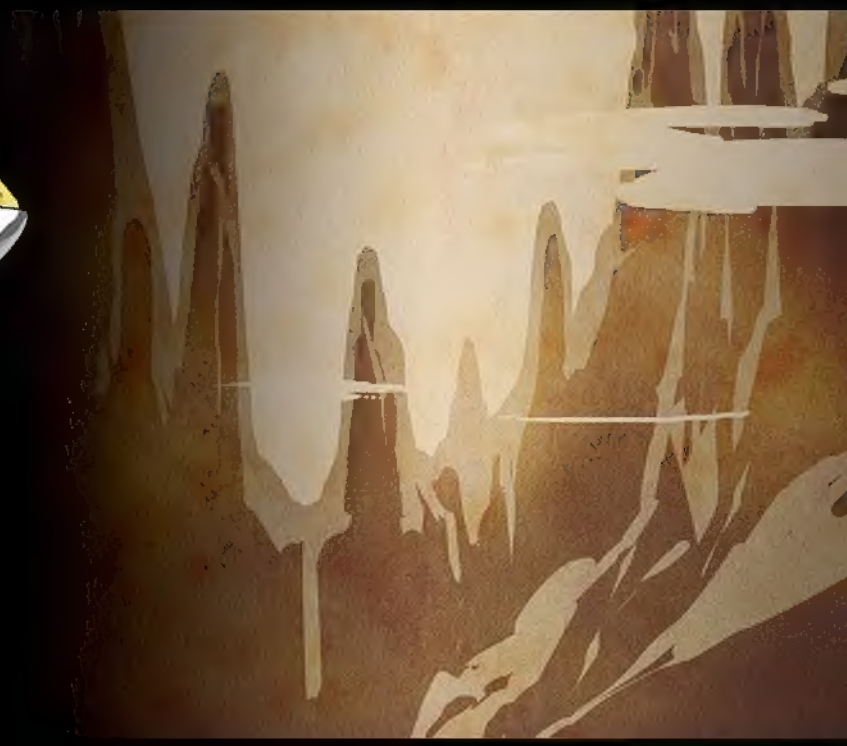
Choose One of Two Paths

CHAPTER 7 Archenemy and Hero 093

There Are So Many Things I Don't Know

CHAPTER 8 Archenemy and Hero 143

The Second Landing Operation to Recover Aurora Island Begins!



MAOYU

Archenemy and Hero

"Become mine, Hero" "I refuse!"

Volume 2

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COLUMN PAGE
Daisuke Takenouchi, Nagisa Hanakura (Recca-sha)
Masataka Nomura

Queen's subordinate the "Chief Maid," they are joined by the "Serf Sisters" who escaped into the mansion and were welcomed as maids and the "Three Sons" gathered for personnel training as though they were drawn to them by fate.

One day, when they visit the Lakeside Convent to request assistance in improving agricultural methods, the Hero is reunited with his former traveling companion the "Female Knight." She is impressed by the words of the Demon Queen posing as the

"Crimson Scholar" and promises to help and also informs the Hero their other companion, the "Female Magician," headed alone into the Demon World after the Hero. Learning this, with instructions from the Demon Queen to clean up the spirit world that has grown lax in her absence, the Hero sets out for the spirit world in order to find his friend. Meanwhile, the Demon Queen pushes ahead with another project and plans to contact the "Alliance," a major organization of the continent.

"Become mine, Hero!"

The "Hero" enters the Demon Queen's castle alone to put an end to the gruesome battle between humans and demons. However, the words the "Demon Queen" spoke to him when they finally came face to face were unexpected. The Demon Queen explains to the bewildered Hero how both sides have benefited from the war and how victory for either side would only lead to their destruction. The Hero is shocked by the truth made evident by the Demon Queen's words. The Demon Queen continues; she is trying to bring about not victory for either side, but a different unknown result "beyond the hill," and in order to accomplish this, the Hero and Demon Queen must work

YOU CAN'T USE THAT KIND OF LOGIC!
PEOPLE MAY DIE DURING WARS, BUT THERE'S NO LOGICAL WAY THE POPULATION WOULD INCREASE!
GENERALLY, NO.
BUT THIS WORLD'S SITUATION BEFORE THE WAR WAS DIFFERENT.
FOR SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE THE WAR, MOST PEOPLE DIED FROM DISEASE OR STARVATION.
INSTEAD OF THE POPULATION RISING, SOMETIMES PLAGUES WOULD RUN RAMPANT, KILLING ENTIRE KINGDOMS OF PEOPLE.
THESE TWO ARE INCREDIBLY FORMIDABLE ENEMIES, AND HUMANKIND WAS UNABLE TO OVERCOME THEM FOR OVER 500 YEARS.

together. Moved by this newly discovered reality and the Demon Queen's sincerity and enthusiasm, the Hero accepts the Demon Queen's offer.

Later, the two set up their base in "Overwinter Village" on the frontier of the "Winter Kingdom" in the Southern Kingdoms. Beginning with the Demon

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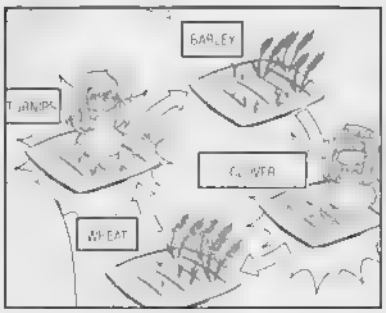

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MAOYU CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

Lectures on Archenemy and Hero
Character Profile

THE DEMON QUEEN

Monarch of the demons. She intends to truly end the war and longs for a world she has not yet seen. Though she possesses no combat abilities, her knowledge is vast, and she calls herself the "Crimson Scholar" in the human world. She has a complex regarding flab.

THE HERO

Though he entered the Demon Queen's castle alone with the intention of ending the war, the Demon Queen convinced him to help with her quest. He has an honest personality and possesses exceptional combat strength, and he is also appropriately naive for his age.

THE CHIEF MAID

Has been caring for the Demon Queen since she was a child. She is related to the Demon Queen and devotes herself daily to the pursuit of the "Way of the Maid." Though she is strict, she is fundamentally a kind person.

THE FEMALE KNIGHT

A knight attached to the Lakeside Convent. Formerly traveled with the Hero. Currently she assists the Demon Queen with her agricultural reformation. Has many nicknames including the "Mighty Princess."

THE OLDER MAID SISTER

Though she was a serf, the Demon Queen saved her when she escaped into the mansion. She works in the mansion as a maid and studies hard in the Demon Queen's lectures.

THE YOUNGER MAID SISTER

A former serf working alongside her older sister as a maid. She is the always bright and cheerful life of the party, and the villages love her. She is a glutton.

THE SOLDIER'S SON

The son of a lower class warrior family studying under the Demon Queen and Hero. He is a heroic simpleton, and he speaks in an archaic manner.

THE NOBLE'S SON

The son of an Ice Kingdom Noble studying alongside the other sons under the Demon Queen. His thinking is typically aristocratic.

THE MERCHANT'S SON

One of three sons studying at the Demon Queen's mansion. Compared to the other two, he is unable to understand the Demon Queen's transcendent logic. A terrible swordsman.

SPIRIT WORLD
BLACK WOLF
FORTRESS
AWOO
HOWL
AWOO
HOWL

THAT WAS TOO QUICK!
WHAT?
RE-PORT!
THE FIFTH COMPANY HAS BEEN ANNIHI-LATED!
IS OUR ENEMY REALLY ACTING ALONE?
STEP

WHO IS HE?

THE BLACK WOLF ARMY IS KNOWN AMONG THE SPIRIT WORLD'S CHAMPION ARMIES FOR ITS STRENGTH...
...AND HE'S DONE THIS MUST DAMAGE ON HIS OWN.
GRIND

YES, SIR!
THERE IS ONLY ONE MAN FIGHT-ING!

HE'S HERE!

ROAR
THE BLACK KNIGHT!

ROAR

I, COMMANDER OF THE BLACK WOLF FORTRESS...
...AND DEMON WOLF GENERAL OF THE FANGED DEMONS...
BLACK KNIGHT!
YOUR PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE BLACK WOLF ARMY HAS BEEN IMPRESSIVE!
HOWEVER, THIS IS AS FAR AS YOU GO!

SEALING SPEAR OF LIGHT!

SLASH

WHOOSH

SLASH

KILL THEM, BLACK KNIGHT!

GOT IT!

JOIN THE CHORUS...

...OF THE GREAT SAGE'S TWO TONES!

WHAT?

SLASH

SLASH

SLASH

SLASH

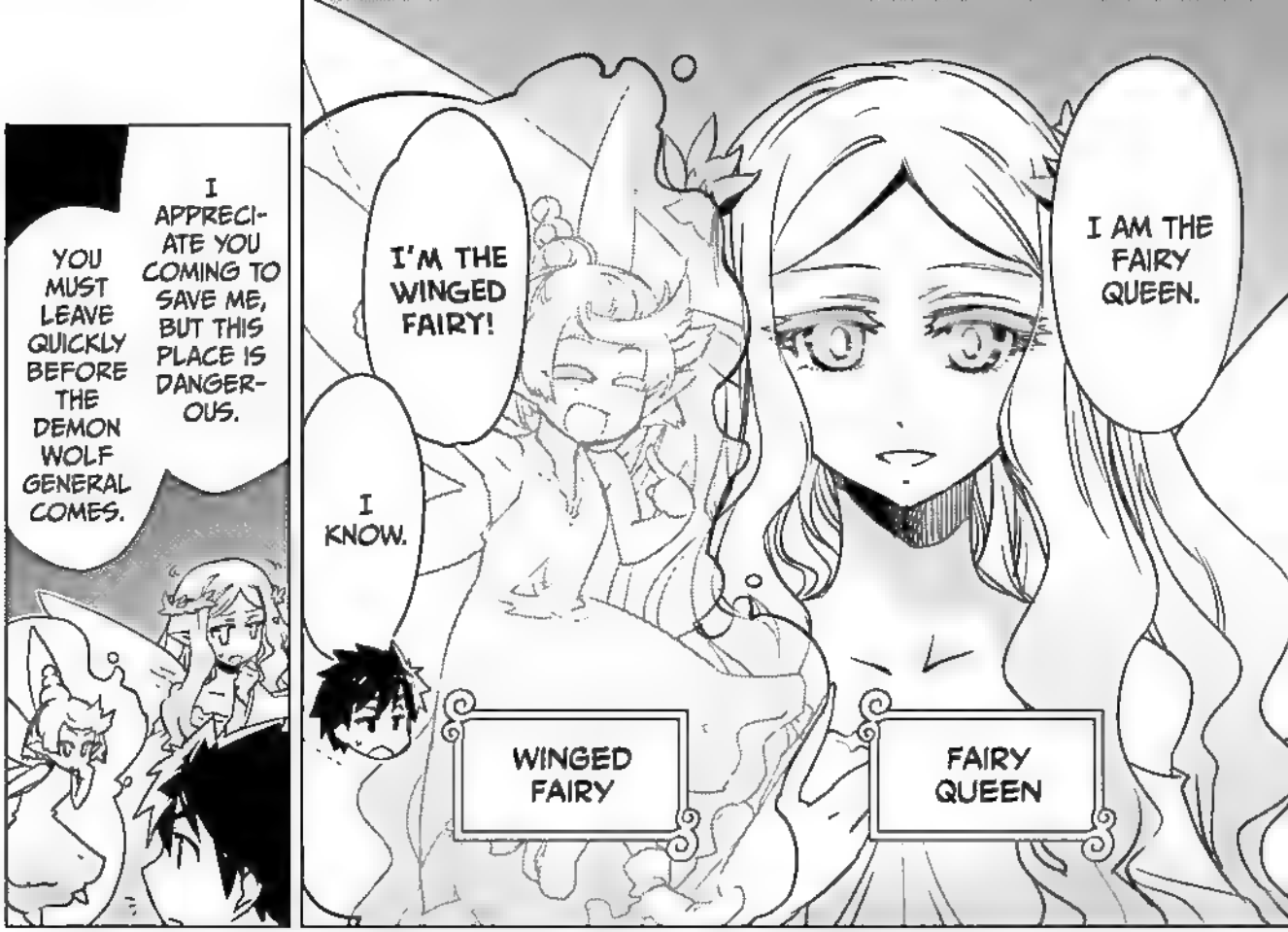
SLASH

KILL THEM, BLACK KNIGHT!
GOT IT!
JOIN THE CHORUS...
...OF THE GREAT SAGE'S TWO TONES!
SMASH
SLASH
SLASH

SLASH
SEALING SPEAR OF LIGHT!
WHOOSH
WHAT?
SLASH
SLASH
SLASH

I... I CAN'T MOVE MY BODY.
DAMN YOU.
OH. I'M IMPRESSED YOU CAN STILL TALK AFTER TAKING THAT.
YARGH!
FLIKK
IT WASN'T ... ...A FATAL BLOW.
HISS
YOU FLICKED HIM IN THE FOREHEAD.
ALL RIGHT. LET'S GO.
THIS WAY!
STEP

!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
BANG
HE SAVED ME.
IS THAT...
...A HU-MAN?
MY QUEEN!
FLAP FLAP
WINGED FAIRY? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I AM THE BLACK KNIGHT.
I'M A HUMAN WORKING FOR THE DEMON QUEEN.
YEAH.
KLANK


I APPRECIATE YOU COMING TO SAVE ME, BUT THIS PLACE IS DANGEROUS.
YOU MUST LEAVE QUICKLY BEFORE THE DEMON WOLF GENERAL COMES.
I'M THE WINGED FAIRY!
I KNOW.
I AM THE FAIRY QUEEN.
WINGED FAIRY
FAIRY QUEEN

BEHIND THE DEMON WOLF GENERAL IS AN EVEN MORE POWERFUL AND HIGHLY RANKED WARRIOR OF THE SPIRIT WORLD.
THE BLACK WOLF KING.
BUT THAT'S NOT ALL!
HISS
WE DEFEATED HIM.
IS THAT THE GUY WE JUST FOUGHT?
ARF
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
HUMANS DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH.

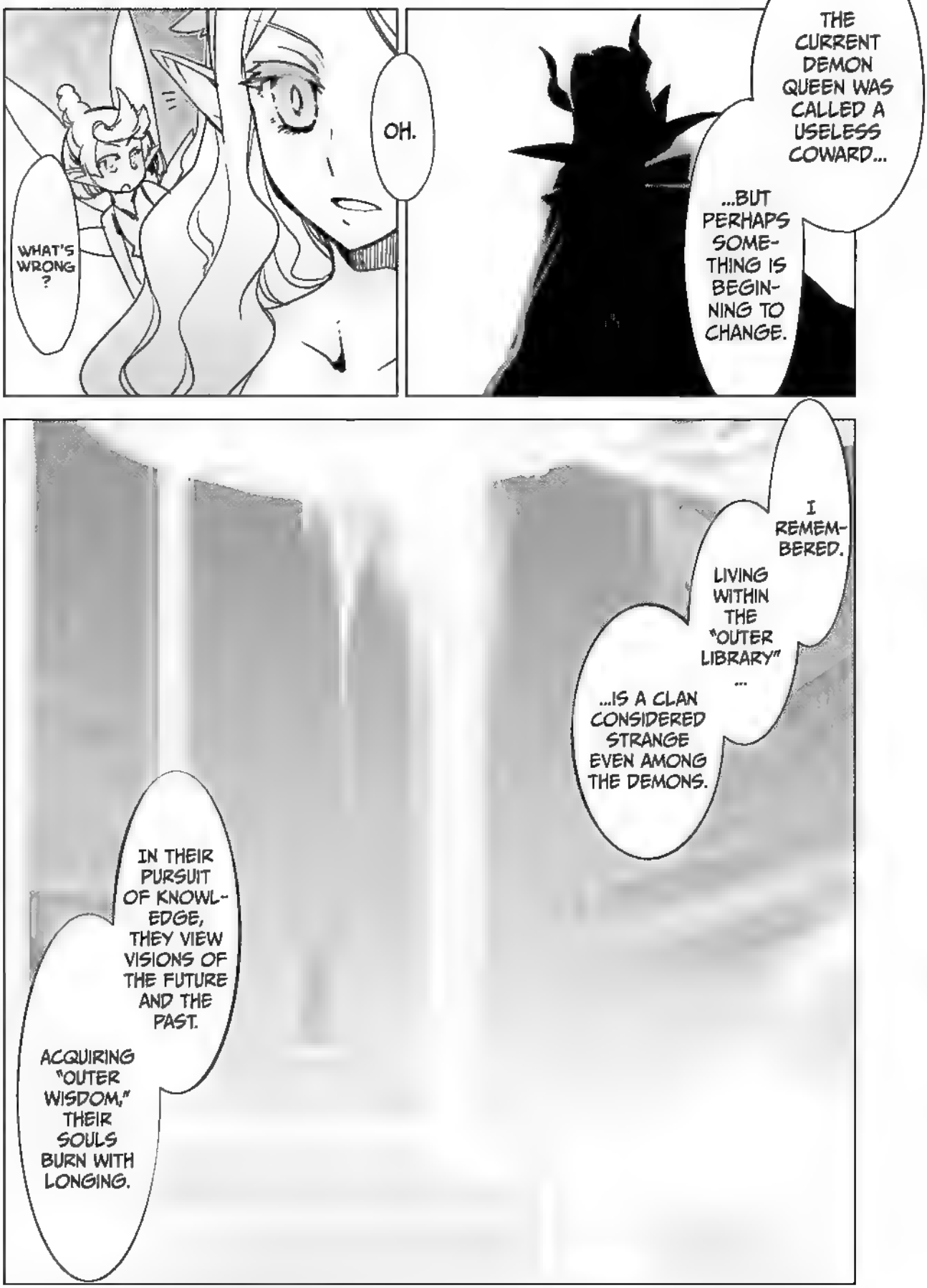
WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT?
HOWL
HAS THE BLACK WOLF KING BEEN DEFEATED?
BOOM
WE DEFEATED HIM TOO...
...LAST WEEK.
YEAH
HEH THE BLACK KNIGHT IS MERCILESS.
SO COOL!
I AM THE SPIRIT WORLD'S ENFORCER WHO HAS PLEDGED HIS ABSOLUTE LOYALTY TO THE DEMON QUEEN!
I TOLD YOU! MY NAME IS THE BLACK KNIGHT!
RUSTLE
THEREFORE...
...BY THE DEMON QUEEN'S ORDERS, I HAVE PURGED THE BLACK WOLF TRIBE.
THEY EVEN PLUNDERED DEMON CITIES AND VILLAGES.
THEY KIDNAPPED HUMANS AND WANTONLY KILLED THEM AND TOYED WITH THEIR LIVES.
THE BLACK WOLF TRIBE DISOBEYED THE ORDERS OF THE DEMON QUEEN.

I WILL ISSUE STERN ORDERS TO THE SURVIVORS OF THE BLACK WOLF TRIBE.
THE BLACK WOLVES WERE ORIGINALLY A PROUD PEOPLE.
AS SUBJECTS OF THE DEMON QUEEN, THE NON-RADICALS...
...SHOULD LIVE LIVES TO PRESERVE THEIR PRIDE.
SO LONG AS THE FAIRIES ARE NOT PERSECUTED BY THE BLACK WOLVES, I HAVE NO OBJECTIONS.
I VOW NOT TO BEAR A GRUDGE AGAINST THEM.
I WILL TELL THE DEMON QUEEN OF YOUR OPEN-MINDEDNESS.
MY QUEEN. WE ARE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE.
?
YES. COME TO THINK OF IT, THAT'S RIGHT.
UH... ON THE DEMON QUEEN'S ORDERS, I HAVE COME HERE IN SEARCH OF A SINGLE HUMAN.
THE BLACK WOLF CLAN WAS AN AFTER-THOUGHT

SHE POSSESSED A GREAT TALENT FOR MAGIC.
SHE CAME TO US TO STUDY FAIRY MAGIC AND MASTER EVEN GREATER TECHNIQUES.
IT'S THE HUMAN WOMAN WHO CAME TO SEE YOU.
OH.
THAT MAGI-CIAN?
...WHERE SHE WENT.
I DO NOT KNOW...
JUST HOW HARD DOES SHE HAVE TO WORK TO BE SATIS-FIED?
THAT EXPRES-SION-LESS GIRL.
SHE'S ALREADY THE STRONGEST MAGE IN THE HUMAN WORLD
COME TO THINK OF IT...

AT THE EDGE OF THE SPIRIT WORLD IN THE BASIN OF THE WATER-FALL OF THE SAND OF TIME...
...THERE IS AN OLD BENCH.
IT'S SAID TRAVEL-ERS WHO SIT ON THE BENCH...
...CAN TRAVEL TO THE MOST DISTANT STARS TO VISIT THE "OUTER LIBRARY."
SHE ZEALOUSLY STUDIED THAT LEGEND.
THE "OUTER LIBRARY," HUH?
GOT IT.
HOWEVER, IT IS A LEGEND-ARY PLACE.
NOT EVEN THE FAIRIES KNOW EXACTLY WHERE IT IS OR HOW TO GET THERE.
THAT'S NOT A PROB-LEM.
SHINE
I WILL FOLLOW THE DEMON QUEEN'S ORDERS AND FIND THIS PLACE, NO MATTER WHERE OR WHAT IT IS.
SO COOL!

MAY THE DEMON QUEEN'S RULE OVER THE SPIRIT WORLD PROSPER.
WE WILL NOT FORGET WHAT SHE HAS DONE FOR US.
THE DEMON QUEEN WISHES FOR THE FAIRIES TO RETURN TO THEIR FORMER TERRITORY...
...AND CONTINUE RULING THEIR PEOPLE AS THEY HAVE UNTIL NOW.
SEE YOU LATER.
I HOPE YOU STAY SAFE DURING YOUR TRAVELS.
I'M LEAV-ING TO SEARCH FOR MY FRIEND.
PERHAPS WE'LL MEET AGAIN.
HE WAS SO COOL.
I HAD NO IDEA THE DEMON QUEEN HAD SUCH A SUBOR-DINATE.
WHOOSH


WHAT'S WRONG?
OH.
THE CURRENT DEMON QUEEN WAS CALLED A USELESS COWARD...
...BUT PERHAPS SOMETHING IS BEGINNING TO CHANGE.
I REMEMBERED.
LIVING WITHIN THE "OUTER LIBRARY"...
...IS A CLAN CONSIDERED STRANGE EVEN AMONG THE DEMONS.
IN THEIR PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE, THEY VIEW VISIONS OF THE FUTURE AND THE PAST.
ACQUIRING "OUTER WISDOM," THEIR SOULS BURN WITH LONGING.

AND...
...THE REIGNING DEMON QUEEN OF "RUBY EYES"...
...IS SAID TO HAVE COME FROM...
...THE "OUTER LIBRARY."

THERE, NEAR THE ROOTS.
TRY DIGGING THERE.
OKAY!

WOW.
LET ME TRY.
ME TOO.
NO FAIR.
A WHOLE BUNCH CAME OUT!
ROLL

WELL, WELL.
THEY'RE REALLY GOING AT IT.
SCHOL-AR.
MAID.
IT'S THE MAID
WOW.
IT'S THE SCHOLAR

NOW, NOW.
THERE'S STILL PLENTY MORE. TAKE TURNS, EVERYONE.
OKAY.
OKAY.

THINGS ARE QUITE LIVELY HERE.
WOW.
WELL DONE
ARE YOU HARVESTING POTATOES?
MAID
LOOK, I DUG THIS UP.
YES.
THE CHILDREN OF THE VILLAGE COME HERE TO LEARN.
TODAY WE'RE DIGGING UP POTATOES...
...MA'AM.
LOOK
MAID
THIS IS THE SECOND HARVEST.

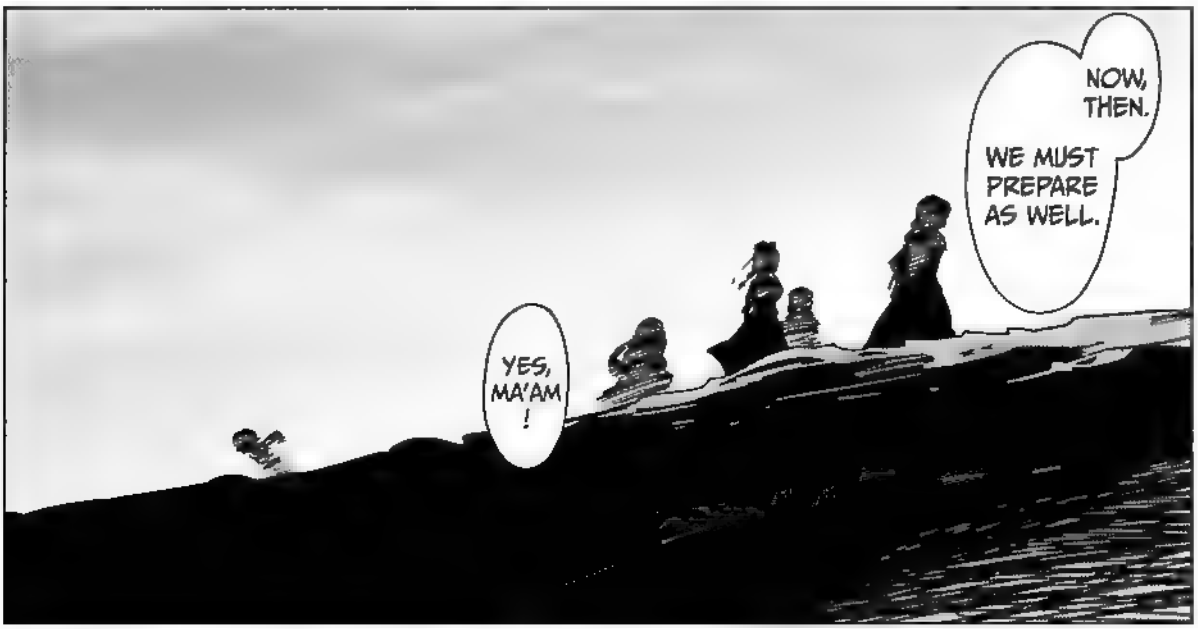
FEMALE KNIGHT, I'M NOT THAT IMPORTANT.
YOU DON'T NEED TO HOLD BACK OR BE SO POLITE.
SHRIEK
SHRIEK
R-REALLY?
UMM... EXCUSE ME.
GIGGLE
AHEM
THANKS TO THE HELP OF YOU AND THE LAKESIDE CONVENT, WE HAVE PRODUCED MAJOR RESULTS OVER THE PAST YEAR.
I HOPE YOU'LL CONTINUE TO ASSIST US.
NO, THANK YOU FOR LOOKING AFTER US.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU.
THAT'S RIGHT. POTATOES ARE VERY DELICIOUS!
THEY'RE SOFT AND FLAKY WHEN THEY'RE BAKED.
DROOL
WOW.
THEY'RE EVEN SOFT WHEN BOILED.
REALLY?
DROOL
WOW
BUT I RECOMMEND FRIED POTATOES!
THEY'RE AMAZINGLY DELICIOUS, WITH A CRISP OUTSIDE AND SOFT INSIDE.

H-HEY, CHIL-DREN.
YOU MUSTN'T INCONVE-NIENCE THE SCHOLAR.
ALL RIGHT.
LET'S HAVE SOME TOGETH-ER!
ARE THESE REALLY THAT GOOD?
I WANT TO EAT THEM.
I WANT TO TRY THEM.
ARE YOU SURE?
WE CAN EAT THEM?
REALLY?
ALL RIGHT!
I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO SELL THE PO-TATOES FOR MORE FUNDS.
WHILE WE DO NEED MONEY, I DON'T INTEND TO KEEP THEM ALL TO MYSELF.
IF WE DON'T THINK OF WAYS FOR EVERYONE TO LIVE PLENTIFUL LIVES WITHOUT HUNGER, THIS WON'T LAST LONG.
TO DO THAT, I NEED THE ENTIRE VILLAGE'S HELP.
WE MUST FIRST TEACH THOSE CLOSE TO US HOW WONDER-FUL THIS IS IN ORDER FOR IT TO SPREAD.

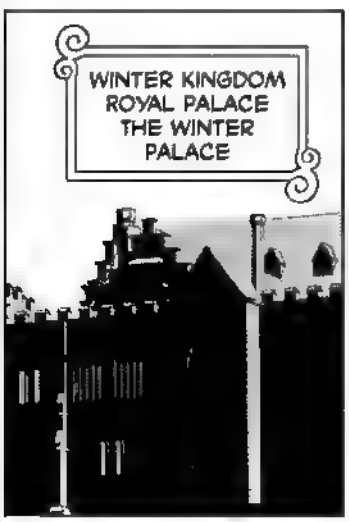
NOW THAT THAT'S SETTLED, WE MUST PREPARE FOR A CELEBRATION.
CAN WE USE THE CONVENT'S FRONT YARD?
OF COURSE.
I'LL NOTIFY THE MONKS IMMEDIATELY.
COME, CHILDREN.
TONIGHT THE ENTIRE VILLAGE WILL DINE ON THE POTATOES WE DUG UP.
GO HOME AND TELL YOUR PARENTS.
WE'D APPRECIATE IF YOU COULD ASK YOUR MOTHERS TO COME TO HELP US COOK.
GOT IT?
OKAY!

SHIREK
キャー
HA HA HA はは
あはは
LET'S RACE.
MIS-TRESS.
WE'LL HELP TOO.
SURE.
WILL YOU TEACH THE MONKS AND VILLAGERS HOW TO PREPARE POTATOES?
I'LL GO.
I'LL MAKE A BUNCH.
MISS MAID.
DO YOU THINK...
...MY DAD AND MOM WILL LIKE...
...THE POTATO I DUG UP?

GO ON.
TELL YOUR PARENTS ABOUT TONIGHT.
OKAY!
YES.
I'M SURE THEY WILL.


NOW, THEN.
WE MUST PREPARE AS WELL.
YES, MA'AM!

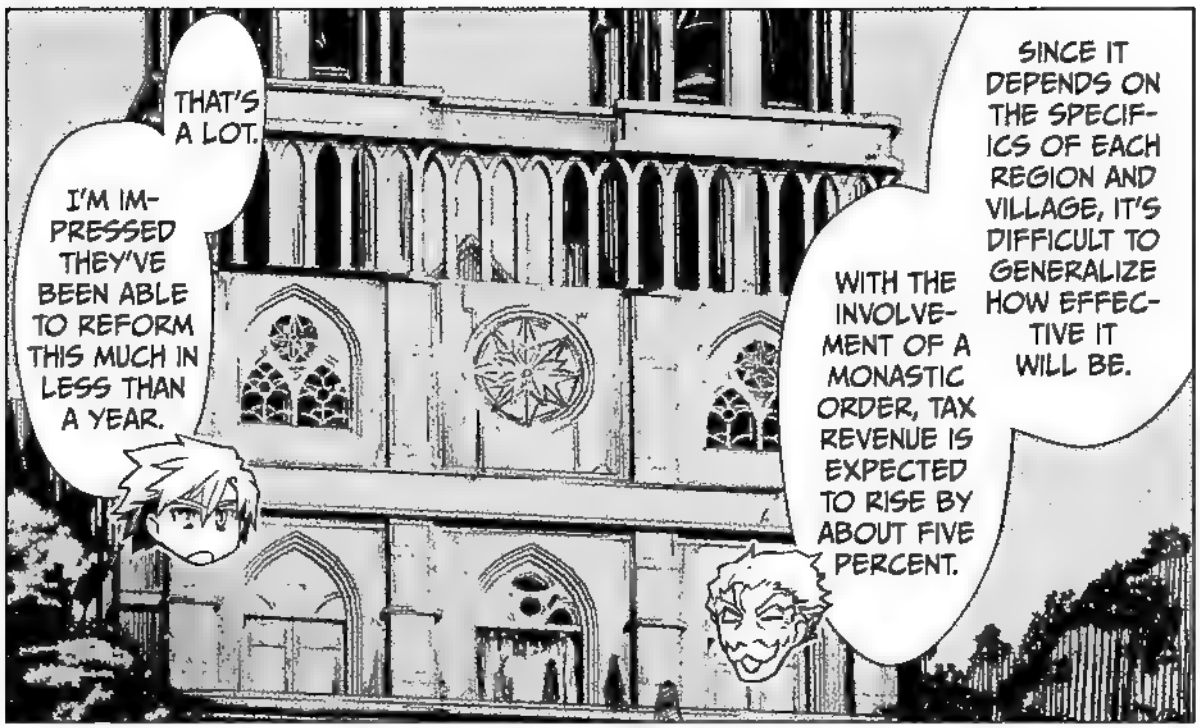
MUNCH


WINTER KINGDOM
ROYAL PALACE
THE WINTER PALACE

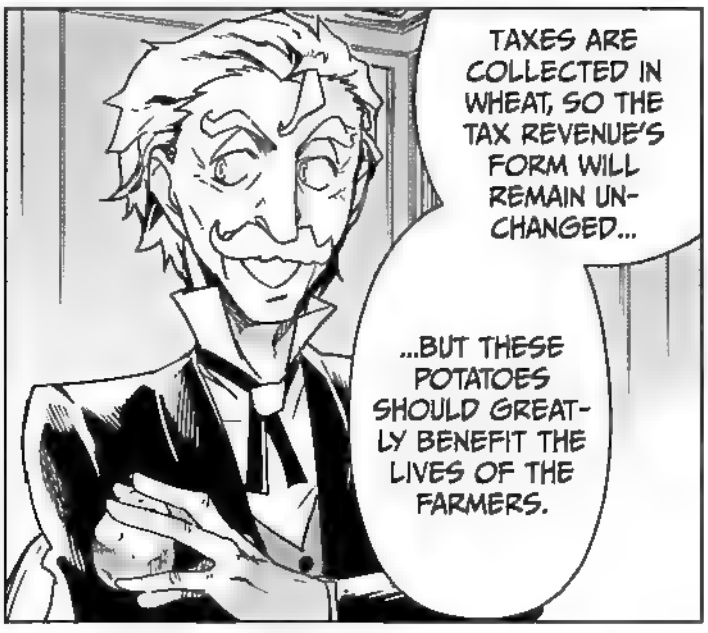
EXCUSE ME.
KLICK
HOT.
HOT!
PHEW
PHEW
YES.
IT'S GOOD!
WINTER PRINCE
OH.
THAT MUST BE ONE OF THE POTA-TOES EVERY-ONE'S TALKING ABOUT.
BUTLER
I HEARD A TRAVELING SCHOLAR BROUGHT THEM TO OUR LAND.
AP-PAR-ENTLY.

COINCI-
DENTALLY, I
CAME HERE
TO DISCUSS
THIS WITH
YOU.
RUSTLE
す…
YOU CAN
READ
MORE
ABOUT
THEM IN
THIS
LETTER.
!!!
YOU'RE
WELL
PRE-
PARED.
CHEW
もき
もき
CHEW
NOT ONLY
ARE THEY
DELICIOUS,
BUT THEY
CAN BE
CULTIVATED
…
…IN THIS
KING-
DOM'S
IMPOV-
ERISHED
LAND.
I SEE
YOU'RE
STARTING
TO SEE
THROUGH
MY WAYS…
…
YOUNG
SIR.
A
COINCI-
DENCE
?
YOU CAME
BECAUSE YOU
HAD THESE
POTATOES
DELIVERED TO
THE LADIES IN
WAITING…
…OLD
MAN.
HEH
HEH.
DON'T
CALL ME
YOUNG.
I'M
ALREADY
ZO.

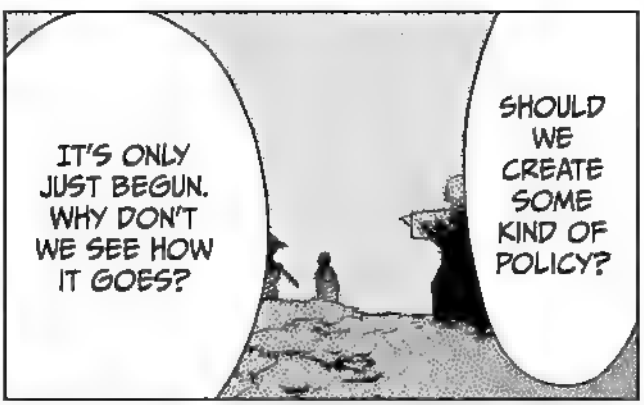
IT SEEMS THAT WAY.
THE LAKESIDE CONVENT IS APPARENTLY ENACTING VARIOUS AGRICULTURAL REFORMS.
SO...
...THEY'RE PROMOTING THE CULTIVATION OF POTATOES UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE LAKESIDE CONVENT?
ADDITIONALLY, THEY'RE CONSTRUCTING SOMETHING CALLED A WINDMILL.
A WINDMILL?
POUR
FOUR FIELD CROP ROTATION.
IMPROVEMENTS TO FARMING EQUIPMENT.
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MONASTIC ACADEMY. A SCHOOL, HUH?
THESE, HUH?
I SEE.
KREEK
THE HIGHLANDS OF OUR KINGDOM'S NORTHERN REGIONS HAVE INSUFFICIENT WATER SOURCES.
USING THESE TO DRAW WATER WILL INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF ARABLE LAND.
IT'S SIMILAR TO A WATER MILL.
IT CONVERTS NOT THE FLOW OF WATER BUT WIND INTO POWER.


SINCE IT DEPENDS ON THE SPECIFICS OF EACH REGION AND VILLAGE, IT'S DIFFICULT TO GENERALIZE HOW EFFECTIVE IT WILL BE.
WITH THE INVOLVEMENT OF A MONASTIC ORDER, TAX REVENUE IS EXPECTED TO RISE BY ABOUT FIVE PERCENT.
THAT'S A LOT.
I'M IMPRESSED THEY'VE BEEN ABLE TO REFORM THIS MUCH IN LESS THAN A YEAR.

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY, I HAVE TO BELIEVE IT.
I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT.


TAXES ARE COLLECTED IN WHEAT, SO THE TAX REVENUE'S FORM WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED...
...BUT THESE POTATOES SHOULD GREATLY BENEFIT THE LIVES OF THE FARMERS.

WHEN THE TIME COMES, I'M SURE THE MONASTIC ORDER WILL CONTACT US.
I SEE.


SHOULD WE CREATE SOME KIND OF POLICY?
IT'S ONLY JUST BEGUN. WHY DON'T WE SEE HOW IT GOES?

THE LEADER OF THE MONASTIC ORDER...
IS THE FEMALE KNIGHT.
SHOULDN'T YOU AT LEAST SAY HELLO?
DRIP
DRIP
YOU'RE ACQUAINTANCES.
SINCE SHE WAS A KNIGHT, SHE WAS A HIGH-MINDED WOMAN WHO PURSUED THINGS DIRECTLY ONCE SHE SET HER MIND ON SOMETHING.
HER BREASTS ARE SMALL, THOUGH.
IT'S POSSIBLE SHE RESENTS ME.
AFTER ALL, I AM A TRAITOR.
I SEE.
I'M SORRY.
I PRACTICALLY FORCED THIS POSITION ON YOU.
NOT AT ALL...
... YOUNG SIR.

THE RUMORS ABOUT THAT HERO MUST BE TRUE.
THE DEMONS' MOVEMENTS HAVE BEEN SLOW THIS YEAR.
HAS THERE BEEN NEWS OF HIS SAFE RETURN?
NO, SIR.
SPLISHHH
THOUGH WE DIDN'T ORDER HIM DIRECTLY, WE'RE THE ONES WHO FORCED HIM INTO THE JAWS OF DEATH.
IF THE WAR ENDED NOW, THE WINTER KINGDOM WOULD BE THE FIRST TO DISAPPEAR.
IS THERE NO WAY WE CAN END THIS WAR?

THE WEATHER IS HARSH IN THE WINTER KINGDOM AND THE OTHER SOUTHERN KINGDOMS, AND WE DO NOT HARVEST ENOUGH FOOD.
CURRENTLY, ACTING AS THE FRONT LINES IN THE WAR AGAINST THE DEMONS...
...WE RECEIVE SUPPORT IN THE FORM OF FUNDS AND FOOD FROM THE KINGDOMS OF THE CENTRAL CONTINENT.
SHOULD THAT STOP, THE PEOPLE WOULD STARVE.
THOUGH IT SOUNDS NICE TO CALL OURSELVES THE SHIELD OF THE CENTRAL CONTINENT...
...WE ARE ACTUALLY CHAINED DOGS.
HOW LONG CAN WE CONTINUE ...
...TO CONSUME ENDLESSLY LIKE THIS RELENTLESS RAIN?

THE TRAVELING SCHOLAR WHO BROUGHT THIS ABOUT...
YOU SAID SHE IS CALLED THE "CRIMSON SCHOLAR"?
YES.
AS THE LETTER DESCRIBES, I HOPE CULTIVATING A FEW PLANTS WILL YIELD SIGNIFICANT RESULTS.
THE POTATO AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL IMPROVE-MENTS...
...MAY BE A RAY OF HOPE SHINING ON OUR KINGDOM.
I WONDER WHAT SORT OF PERSON SHE IS.
CHIEF MAID.
CHIEF MAID!

I ALSO FEEL THE CHEST MAY BE TOO REVEALING TOO.
I PUT ON THE CLOTHES YOU TOLD ME TO WEAR...
...BUT DON'T YOU THINK THEY'RE TOO FRILLY?
WHAT IS IT...
...DEMON QUEEN?
I'M NOT THAT FLABBY!
I...
SHUT UP!
ARE YOU EMBARRASSED BY YOUR UNBECOMING FLAB?

FLESH WITHOUT MATERNAL CHARACTER IS CALLED FLAB.
I'M JUST A LITTLE MATERNAL.
EVEN THE FEMALE KNIGHT SAID I WAS BUXOM.
EVERY-ONE SAYS I AM.
GLOOM
...FROM ORGA-NIZING SECURITY MEA-SURES.
I'M JUST A LITTLE ON EDGE...
WHIMPER
YOU'RE SO HARSH TODAY, CHIEF MAID.

HOW IS THAT GOING?
I WILL STATION HORROR GHOSTS AND KNIGHT GHOSTS.
THEY SHOULD BE ENOUGH AS LONG AS AN ARMY DOESN'T COME.
HAVE WE ALWAYS HAD THIS MANY SUITS OF ARMOR?
!
THEY'RE HERE.
HMPH.

I WOULDN'T BE CONCERNED IF WE WERE DEALING WITH NOBLES OR SOLDIERS...
...BUT THEY'RE MERCHANTS OF THE ALLIANCE.
ALL I CAN DO IS COUNT ON YOU TO HANDLE THEM.
ARE YOU WORRIED?
I HAVE NO CHOICE.
I CAN'T AVOID PASSING THROUGH THESE GATES.
NO.
I'M JUST UNEASY BECAUSE I CANNOT HELP YOU.
YOU HAVE NO FAITH IN ME.
IF ONLY THE HERO WERE HERE...
URGH
SLAP
SLAP

THE HERO WOULD ONLY HAVE SOMETHING TO DO...
...IF NEGOTIATIONS FAILED.
IF THAT HAPPENED, WE WOULD RUN.
IT WOULD BE MEANINGLESS.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
WHO KNOWS?
WHAT?
APPARENTLY MEN FEEL UNEASY WHEN YOU ACT TOO STRONG.

I HAVE LET YOUR GUESTS INTO THE DRAWING ROOM.
BANG
MY SISTER'S MAKING TEA.
KLICK
MIS-TRESS.
YOUR BREASTS LOOK COOL.
THIS CHILD...
HEY.
DON'T EXTEND THE ENDS OF YOUR SEN-TENCES.
OH-KAY.
CAN SOME-THING BE DONE ABOUT THE BODICE OF THIS DRESS?
IT'S TIME TO TAKE THE FIELD!
STEP
YES.
COME ...
... DEMON QUEEN.

ガチャ…
KLICK

WELL, WELL.

MY, MY.
LOOK AT THIS!

CALL ME THE CRIMSON SCHOLAR.
I'M SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
I AM THIS MANSION'S MISTRESS, THOUGH I AM ONLY A LOWLY SCHOLAR.

IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.
I AM THE TREASURER ACCOMPANYING THE MERCHANT ON THIS MEETING.
I HANDLE TRADE IN THE ANTARCTIC OCEAN FOR THE ALLIANCE.
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.
I AM THE YOUNG SCHOLAR.
SHREWD TREASURER
YOUNG MERCHANT

THE END

CHAPTER 5
I Am the Black Knight!

MUTUAL AID ORGANIZATIONS ESTABLISHED TO PROTECT RIGHTS

In feudal societies of the Middle Ages, merchants formed various organizations including guilds and alliances between cities in order to protect their rights.

ORGANIZATIONS CREATED TO PROTECT INTERESTS

By the Middle Ages, food production levels were beginning to stabilize enough to yield a surplus. Many people began moving into cities, stimulating the economy, and merchants rose to power. Some powerful merchants became involved in politics in order to contribute to the development of cities. To protect their rights, union organizations known as guilds were born. At the time, guilds worked to acquire special trade privileges for their members and eventually established monopolies over the procurement of goods and markets.

However, because nearby landlords began trying to draw a profit from the now wealthy cities, in some cities alliances formed to protect the rights of merchants and defend themselves from the tyranny of the landlords. Among others, the fiercely independent cities of Italy formed the "Lombard League" to protect their autonomy. They are known for resisting the Holy Roman Empire's invasion with the support of the Pope.

IT'S NATURAL FOR US TO WORK TOGETHER IN OUR BATTLE AGAINST THEM.
DEMONS ARE THE ENEMIES OF HUMAN-KIND
I KNOW THE ALLI-ANCE IS THE GREATEST SPONSOR...
...OF THE WAR AGAINST DEMONS.

By investing funds in the war on demons and stimulating the economy, the Alliance stands to benefit even more.

The "Hanseatic League" formed in Germany is another famous alliance. Like the Lombard League, in the Hanseatic League, the cities in the alliance were controlled by famous merchants and it had elements of a military alliance, but instead of opposing the landlords, they formed an equal partnership with them to develop cities.

In exchange for being issued charters of autonomy, the cities belonging to these organizations paid taxes to monarchs and the Pope. Because tax revenue would rise with the development of cities, those in power also proactively supported cities.

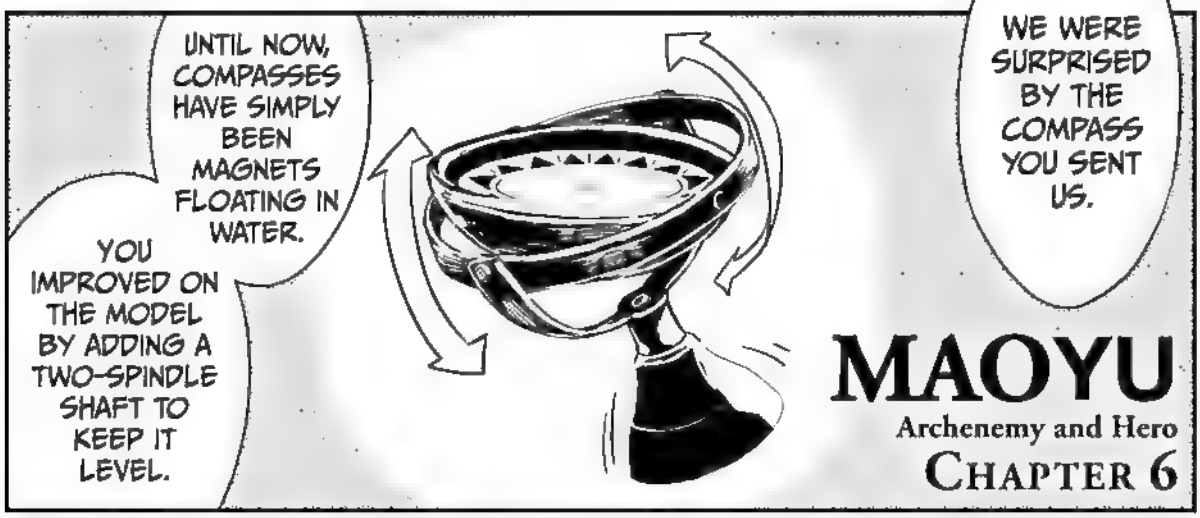
BY MEDIATING BETWEEN THE IRREC-ONCILABLE LIGHT AND SHADOWS AND COM-PROMISING ...
...DON'T MERCHANTS SEEK TO MAKE PROFITS THROUGH TRADES?
HIGH AND LOW.
NORTH AND SOUTH.
FIRE AND ICE.

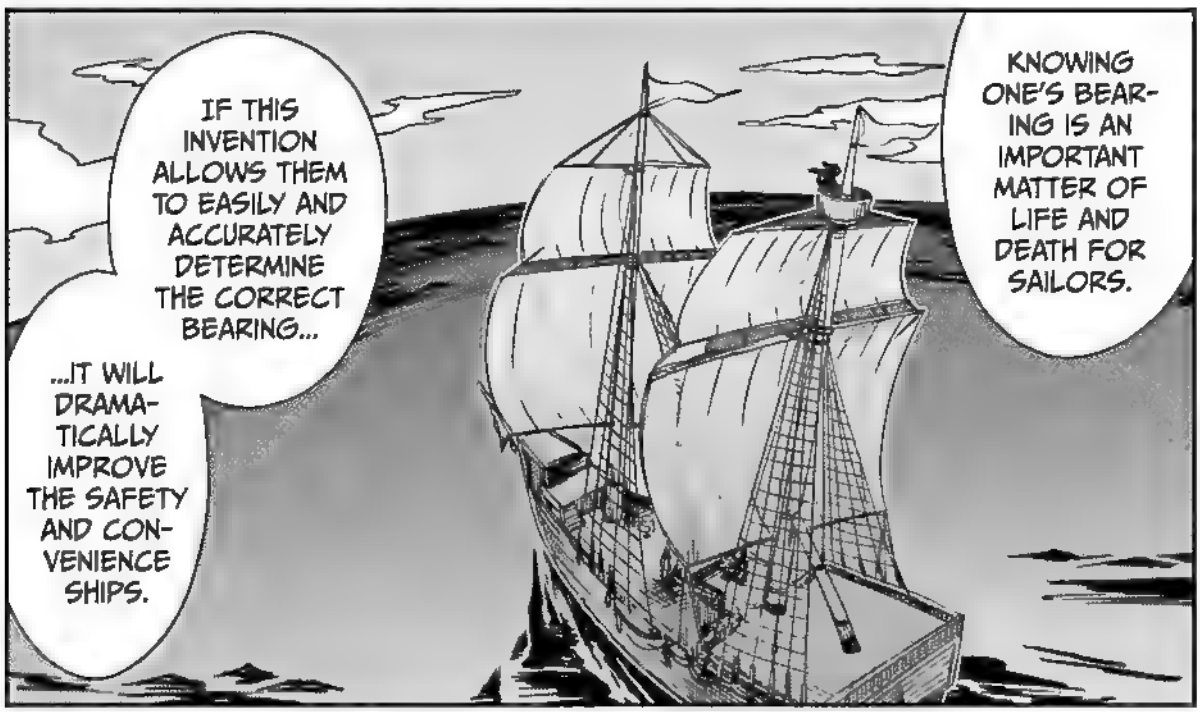
In her negotiations with the Young Merchant, the Demon Queen successfully convinces the Alliance by using the fact that it is a group of merchants.

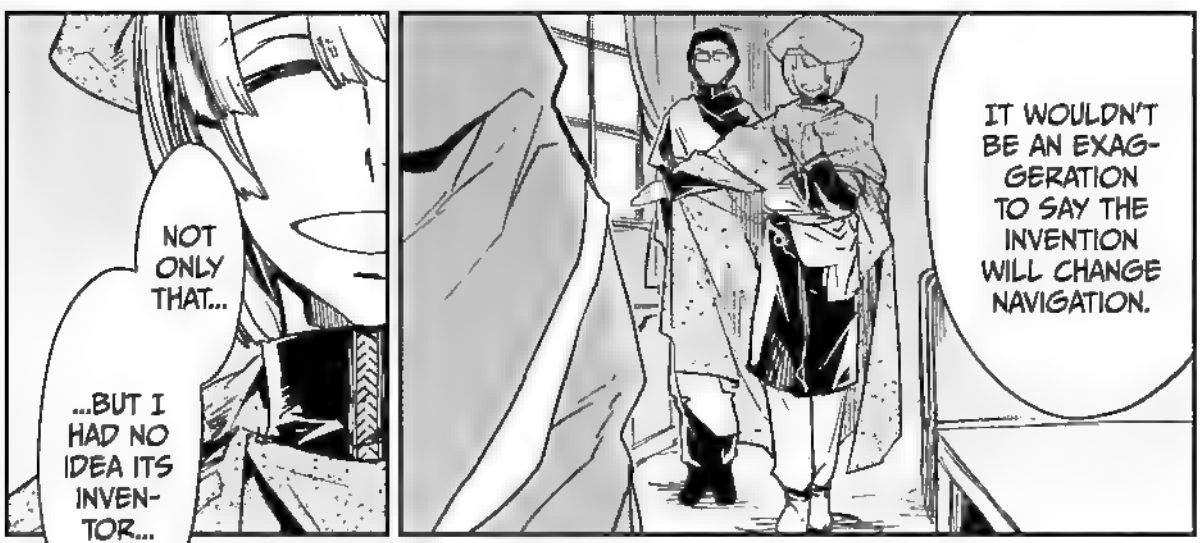
In *Maoyu*, though the details of the Alliance are still unknown, based on the Demon Queen's explanation on page 118 of the comic's first volume, the organization was likely formed by a group of venture merchants. It can be considered similar to the guilds of the Middle Ages. However, its scale is massive. The Alliance's influence extends throughout the entire Central Continent, and it could purchase the Southern Kingdoms five time and still have money to spare.

As an organization transcending national borders, the Alliance conjures images of modern day multinational corporations. Currently, the Alliance does not seem to possess its own military force. Using its influence over the economy and massive wealth as a weapon, the Alliance protects the interests of its members.

THE SECRET FAD


WE WERE SURPRISED BY THE COMPASS YOU SENT US.
UNTIL NOW, COMPASSES HAVE SIMPLY BEEN MAGNETS FLOATING IN WATER.
YOU IMPROVED ON THE MODEL BY ADDING A TWO-SPINDLE SHAFT TO KEEP IT LEVEL.
MAOYU
Archenemy and Hero
CHAPTER 6


KNOWING ONE'S BEARING IS AN IMPORTANT MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH FOR SAILORS.
IF THIS INVENTION ALLOWS THEM TO EASILY AND ACCURATELY DETERMINE THE CORRECT BEARING...
...IT WILL DRAMATICALLY IMPROVE THE SAFETY AND CONVENIENCE SHIPS.


IT WOULDN'T BE AN EXAGGERATION TO SAY THE INVENTION WILL CHANGE NAVIGATION.
NOT ONLY THAT...
...BUT I HAD NO IDEA ITS INVENTOR...

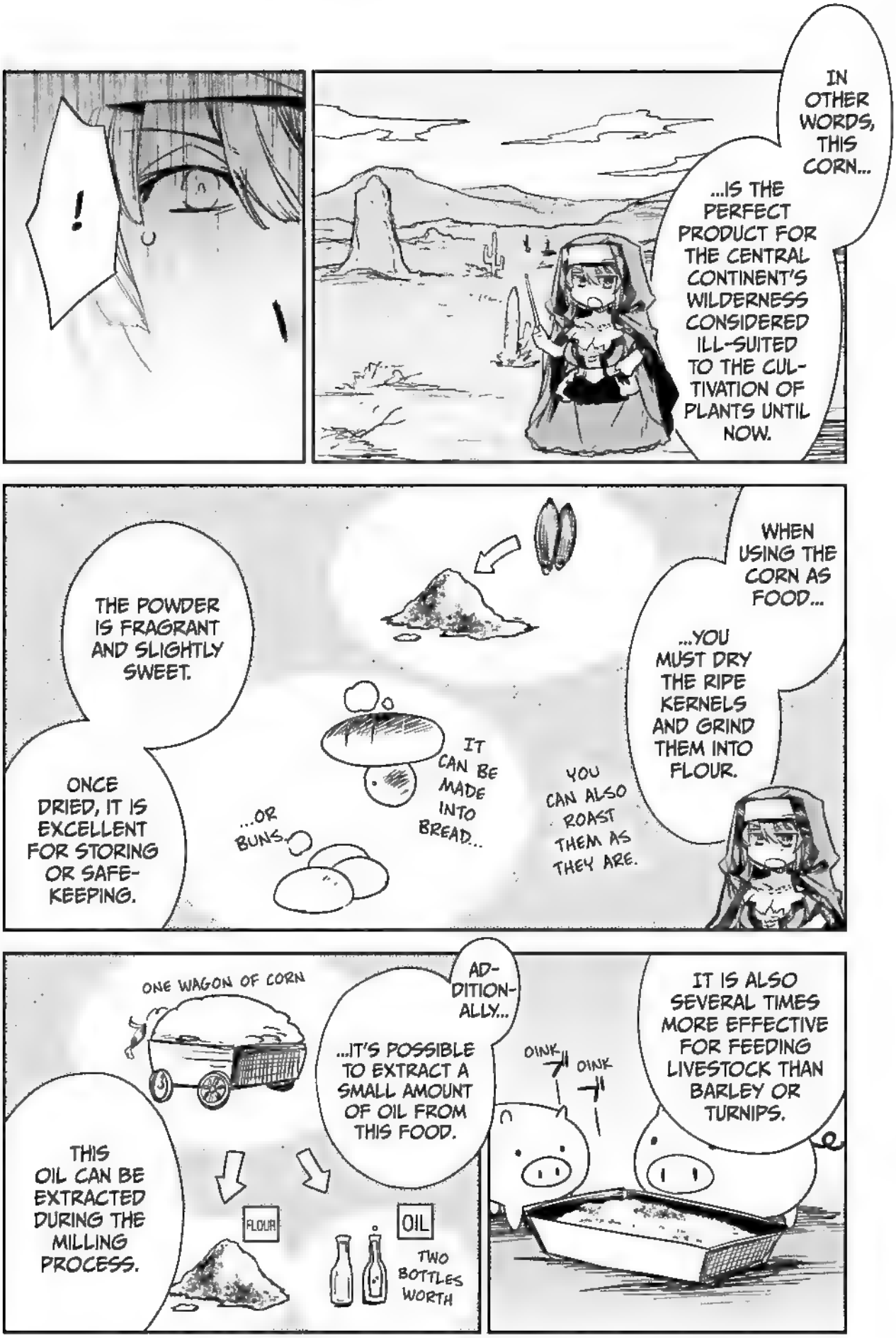
...WAS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN!
CHAPTER 6 Archenemy and Hero
Choose One of Two Paths

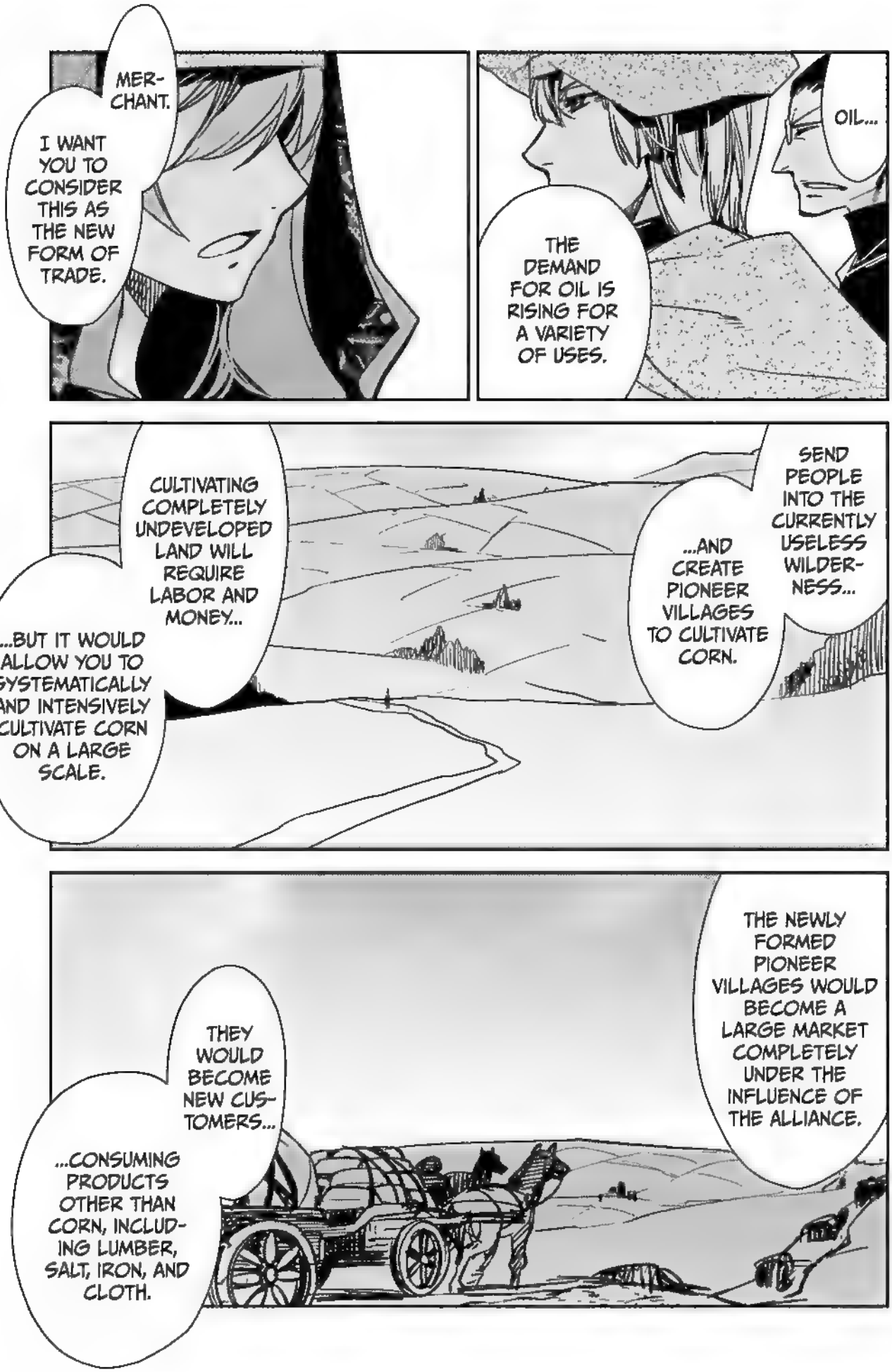
AN INTEL-LIGENT SCHOLAR AND INVENTOR.
I'VE HEARD YOU'RE WELL VERSED IN AGRICULTURE AS WELL.
HONESTLY, I CANNOT CONCEAL MY SUR-PRISE.
I'M EVEN MORE SURPRISED THAN WHEN I SAW THE COMPASS YOU SENT US.

DEMON QUEEN, HANG IN THERE!
I AM AT A LOSS FOR WORDS.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY IN RESPONSE TO YOUR PRAISE.
IT WAS A POORLY CONCEIVED PLOY TO MAKE NEGOTIATIONS GO SMOOTHLY.
I HOPE YOU WILL FORGIVE ME.
OH, DEMON QUEEN.
THAT'S A SPIRITED DEFENSE!
...IT IS AS THOUGH YOU SHINE...
...WITH BOTH INTELLIGENCE AND BEAUTY.
WHY, SCHOLAR...
IT'S ONLY FLATTERY, BUT IT'S QUITE STRONG.
...I HAD TO RUSH HERE.
AFTER RECEIVING YOUR IMPROVED COMPASS...
ANYWAY, I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO COME SO FAR.

I APOLOGIZE FOR TAKING SO LONG TO ARRIVE.
AS AN INEXPERIENCED MERCHANT OF THE ALLIANCE...
...I HAD MUCH TO PREPARE FOR THESE LARGE-SCALE NEGOTIATIONS.
LET US FIRST DISCUSS THE RIGHT TO USE THAT COMPASS.
NO, FIRST...
...I'D LIKE YOU TO TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.
?
WHAT IS THIS?

IS IT... A PLANT?
WE THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO DISCUSS THE COMPASS TODAY.
THIS IS A CEREAL KNOWN AS CORN.
YES.
ITS GREATEST QUALITY IS IT GROWS WELL EVEN WITHOUT MUCH WATER.
TOO MUCH WATER CAN ACTUALLY NEGATIVELY IMPACT ITS GROWTH.
NATURALLY, IT DOES REQUIRE A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF WATER
ADDITIONALLY, IT REQUIRES A TEMPERATURE OF 30ºC TO SPROUT.
IT DOES NOT REQUIRE MUCH WATER...
AND ...
...IT REQUIRES A TEMPERATURE OF 30º.
THAT'S QUITE HIGH.
YES, IT IS.
IT REQUIRES A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WAY OF THINKING FROM THE CULTIVATION OF WHEAT.


!
IN OTHER WORDS, THIS CORN...
...IS THE PERFECT PRODUCT FOR THE CENTRAL CONTINENT'S WILDERNESS CONSIDERED ILL-SUITED TO THE CULTIVATION OF PLANTS UNTIL NOW.
WHEN USING THE CORN AS FOOD...
...YOU MUST DRY THE RIPE KERNELS AND GRIND THEM INTO FLOUR.
YOU CAN ALSO ROAST THEM AS THEY ARE.
IT CAN BE MADE INTO BREAD...
...OR BUNS.
THE POWDER IS FRAGRANT AND SLIGHTLY SWEET.
ONCE DRIED, IT IS EXCELLENT FOR STORING OR SAFE-KEEPING.
ONE WAGON OF CORN
ADDITIONALLY...
...IT'S POSSIBLE TO EXTRACT A SMALL AMOUNT OF OIL FROM THIS FOOD.
THIS OIL CAN BE EXTRACTED DURING THE MILLING PROCESS.
FLOUR
OIL
TWO BOTTLES WORTH
OINK
OINK
IT IS ALSO SEVERAL TIMES MORE EFFECTIVE FOR FEEDING LIVESTOCK THAN BARLEY OR TURNIPS.


MER-
CHANT.
I WANT YOU TO CONSIDER THIS AS THE NEW FORM OF TRADE.
OIL...
THE DEMAND FOR OIL IS RISING FOR A VARIETY OF USES.
CULTIVATING COMPLETELY UNDEVELOPED LAND WILL REQUIRE LABOR AND MONEY...
...BUT IT WOULD ALLOW YOU TO SYSTEMATICALLY AND INTENSIVELY CULTIVATE CORN ON A LARGE SCALE.
SEND PEOPLE INTO THE CURRENTLY USELESS WILDER-NESS...
...AND CREATE PIONEER VILLAGES TO CULTIVATE CORN.
THEY WOULD BECOME NEW CUS-TOMERS...
...CONSUMING PRODUCTS OTHER THAN CORN, INCLUD-ING LUMBER, SALT, IRON, AND CLOTH.
THE NEWLY FORMED PIONEER VILLAGES WOULD BECOME A LARGE MARKET COMPLETELY UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE ALLIANCE.

YES.
...BUT A NEW "CONCEPT" ...
...TO THE ALLI-ANCE?
IN OTHER WORDS...
...YOU WISH TO SELL NOT A PRODUCT OR CULTI-VATION METHOD ...
YOUR WORDS ...
...HAVE NEVER BEEN HEARD IN ANY CITY ON THIS CONTI-NENT.
I UNDER-STAND...
...ITS VALUE.
WHAT ?
THAT'S A NICE FACE YOU'RE MAKING.
NO...
THEY'VE NEVER BEEN HEARD ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

HOWEVER, ARE YOU SURE?
AFTER HEARING WHAT YOU SAID, I CANNOT HELP BUT BE SERIOUS.
IT'S FAR BETTER THAN THE EXPRES-SION YOU MAKE WHEN YOU'RE BUTTERING UP A WOMAN.
HAVE YOU CONSIDERED ...
...WE COULD REPRODUCE THEM AND UNDERTAKE THESE ENDEAVORS WITHOUT YOU?
IN OTHER WORDS, THEY CAN BE COPIED AND REPRO-DUCED.
WHAT YOU JUST SAID AND THE COMPASS YOU SENT US...
...ARE BOTH BASED ON "WAYS OF THOUGHT."
I'VE GIVEN UP ON THAT.
HOW DO YOU INTEND TO PROTECT YOUR INTERESTS?

IF THERE'S MONEY TO BE HAD, I WANT IT.
RESEARCH HAS ITS COSTS.
RESEARCHING TECHNOLOGY AND CONCEPTS IS WONDERFUL.
PURSUING ONE'S INTERESTS IN FINE AS WELL.
ARE YOU SPEAKING THEOLOGICALLY?
IT'S TOO COMPLICATED FOR ME TO UNDERSTAND.
HOWEVER...
...A SINGLE TECHNIQUE OR MATERIAL THAT CAN BE MONOPOLIZED CAN ONLY HAVE A LIMITED EFFECT ON THIS WORLD.
WHAT WE NEED ARE "CHANGES" AND "BREAKTHROUGHS."
HA
CLATTER
THAT MERCHANT SEEMS TO UNDERSTAND.

ARE YOU SAYING WE MUST...
...CHOOSE?
DIDN'T YOU COME TO CHOOSE?
IT IS MY UNDER-STANDING THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO NEGO-TIATE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
FOR THE WAR TO END SOON...
...WITH NEITHER VICTORY NOR DEFEAT.

DEMONS ARE THE ENEMIES OF HUMAN-KIND.
IT'S NATURAL FOR US TO WORK TOGETHER IN OUR BATTLE AGAINST THEM.
I KNOW THE ALLI-ANCE IS THE GREATEST SPONSOR...
...OF THE WAR AGAINST DEMONS.
BY MEDIATING BETWEEN THE IRREC-ONCILABLE LIGHT AND SHADOWS AND COM-PROMISING ...
...DON'T MERCHANTS SEEK TO MAKE PROFITS THROUGH TRADES?
HIGH AND LOW.
NORTH AND SOUTH.
FIRE AND ICE.
IT'S THE PROPER OPINION.
ISN'T THAT THE PUBLIC OPINION?
I'M A TRADING PARTNER.
...AN ALLY OF THE ALLIANCE ...
...OR AN ENEMY?
ARE YOU...

AS A HUMAN, WHAT YOU JUST SAID CONSTITUTES BETRAYAL.
PERHAPS I SHOULD CONDEMN AND PROSECUTE YOU HERE AND NOW.
YOU WANT ME TO CHOOSE BETWEEN...
...ONE OF TWO PATHS.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

IF WE COULD ONLY BE ENEMIES OR ALLIES...
...THIS WORLD WOULD BE A MISERABLE PLACE.
!!/
WHAT IS IT YOU'RE LOOKING AT?
WE'RE BEING TESTED.
BOTH OF US.
I AM A SCHOLAR. MY SPECIALTY IS ECONOMICS.
THE FLOW OF GOODS AND MONEY.
GAINS AND LOSSES.
I SPECIALIZE IN THE HISTORY AND FUTURE...
...OF THE PERSISTENT FLOW OF EXCHANGES TAKING PLACE IN THE SOCIETIES BORN FROM THOSE WITH SOULS.

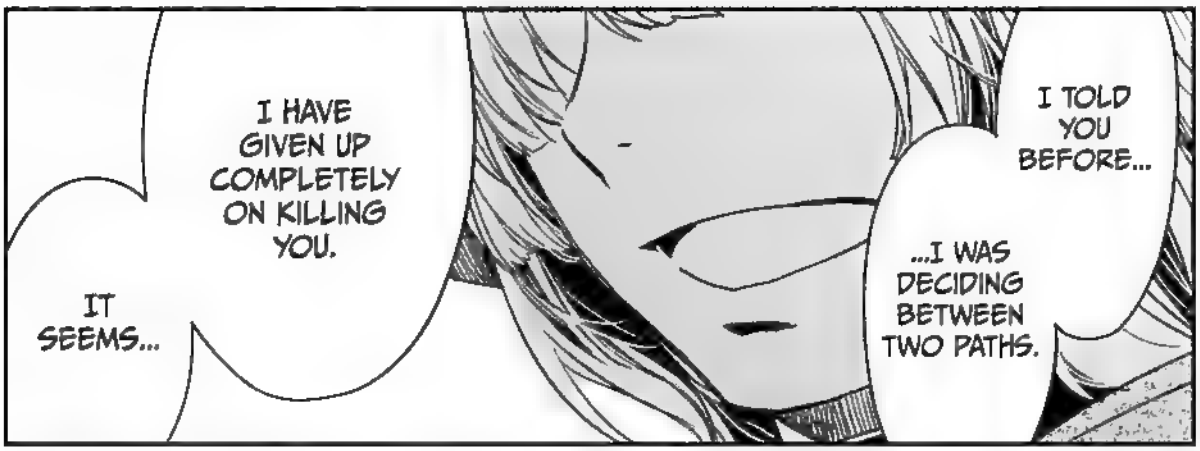
AND YOU WANT ME TO BETRAY HUMANKIND?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
I'M LOOKING AT THE SAME THINGS YOU ARE, MERCHANT.
GAINS AND LOSSES?
IT'S NOT AS THOUGH I DON'T REALIZE THE NATURE...
BANG
...OF YOUR DREAM TO END THIS WAR!
I BELIEVE.

WHAT IS IT...
...YOU BE-LIEVE IN...
...IN MY ALLIANCE AND HUMAN-KIND?
THAT WE BOTH SPEAK THE LAN-GUAGE OF BALANCING PROFITS AND LOSSES.
IT IS THE SECOND STRONGEST BOND BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH.
HA HA HA HA HA!
THUD
YES, THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT!
BE A MERCHANT FIRST AND HUMAN SECOND.
MORE THAN A DEVOUT FOLLOWER OF THE CHURCH, BE A MERCHANT.
THAT'S PRECISELY THE INSTRUC-TIONS OF THE ALLI-ANCE.

WHAT A COINCI-DENCE.
SO AM I.
I AM SIMPLY A GENUINE ADVOCATE OF CON-TRACTS.
LET US CREATE...
...A WRITTEN CONTRACT TO ILLUMINATE OUR FUTURE.

PLEASE BE CAREFUL ON YOUR JOURNEY HOME.
DON'T YOU HAVE A CARAVAN WAITING NEARBY?
HA HA HA
YES, A "CARAVAN."
WE TOOK PRECAUTIONS AS WELL.
BOTH OF US DID.
UNBELIEVABLE.
TODAY HAS BEEN ONE SURPRISE AFTER ANOTHER.
YES.
IT'S NOT GOOD FOR MY HEART.
THESE CLOTHES ARE EMBARRASSING TOO.
THAT'S RIGHT.

EVERY-ONE KNOWS.
IT'S LOVE.
YOU SAID THE BALANCE OF PROFITS AND LOSSES...
...IS THE SECOND STRONGEST BOND IN THE WORLD.
WHAT IS THE STRON-GEST BOND, THEN?
EVEN A CHILD KNOWS THAT.
IN-DEED!
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
OH!
IN-CRED-IBLE!
HOW AMAZ-ING!
OH, TO EXPERI-ENCE THESE EMOTIONS TWICE IN ONE DAY!
YOU MEAN ...
HAH.
HA HA


I TOLD YOU BEFORE...
...I WAS DECIDING BETWEEN TWO PATHS.
I HAVE GIVEN UP COMPLETELY ON KILLING YOU.
IT SEEMS...

...I MUST ASK FOR YOUR HAND IN MARRIAGE.

WHAT IS IT?
A MARRIAGE PROPOSAL.
What ...
What ...
What ...
WHAT IS THAT?
How...
How...
HOW COULD YOU BE SO RASH?
YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED!
I...
I...
I HAVE ...
UMM ...
MY, MY.
YOUR THOUGHTS WERE SO CLEAR-HEADED, I FORGOT MY MANNERS.
I DID JUMP THE GUN ASKING FOR YOU TO MARRY ME WITHOUT SENDING YOU A DOWRY OR GIFTS.

ACTU-ALLY...
...NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME YOU GIVE ME, I CAN'T...
TENACITY AND DECISIVENESS ARE IMPORTANT WEAPONS FOR A MERCHANT TO HAVE.
I AM THE TYPE TO SETTLE DOWN BEFORE TACKLING THIS KIND OF SITUATION.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
NO...
IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I CALL YOU THAT?
...MY BEAUTI-FUL DAR-LING.
I HOPE WE MEET AGAIN...
NO! ABSO-LUTELY NOT!

BUZZ
BUZZ
SPIRIT WORLD DRAGON CLAN TEMPLE
BOOM
THUD
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
BOOM
IT'S ...
...STILL GOING ON.
HE'S STILL FIGHTING THE ARCHDUKE.
ROAR
YOU MUST REST...
...PRINCESS.
AT THIS RATE, YOUR BODY...
I'M FINE.
I WILL WAIT HERE...
...FOR MY FATHER'S VICTORY.

ROAR

CLASH

CLING

CRASH

CLASH
CRASH

ROAR
CLING

WHOOSH
ROAR
ARCHDUKE
FIRE
DRAGON
BURN

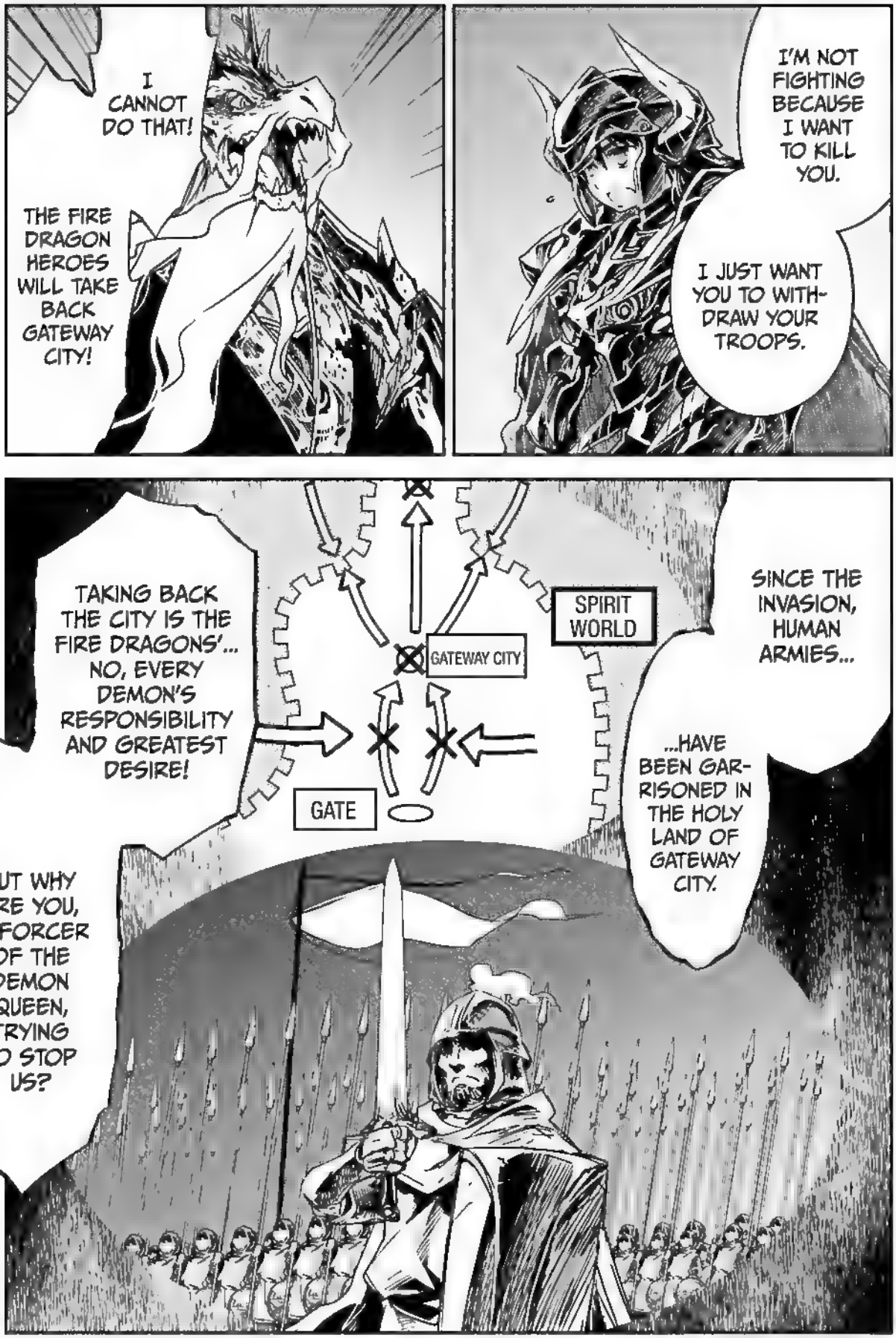
FWOOSH
ROAR
SLASH

HRNG
...
NGH!
SPLISHHH

WHAT?
THIS IS HARDLY A SCRATCH!
HISS

IT'S OVER, ARCHDUKE FIRE DRAGON.
ADMIT DEFEAT.

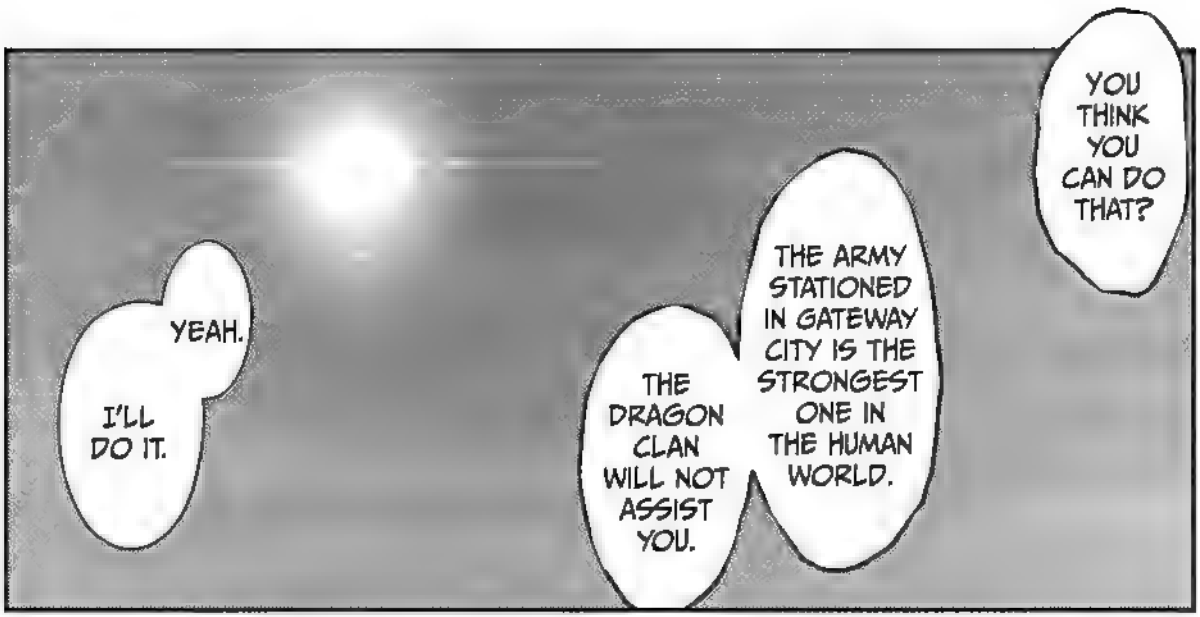
ARE YOU TRYING TO MOCK ME?
HOW DARE YOU HOLD BACK!
IF YOU WISH TO DEFEAT ME, YOU MUST END MY LIFE!
I'M START-ING TO GET TIRED
OH, COME ON...
WHAT AM I SUP-POSED TO DO?

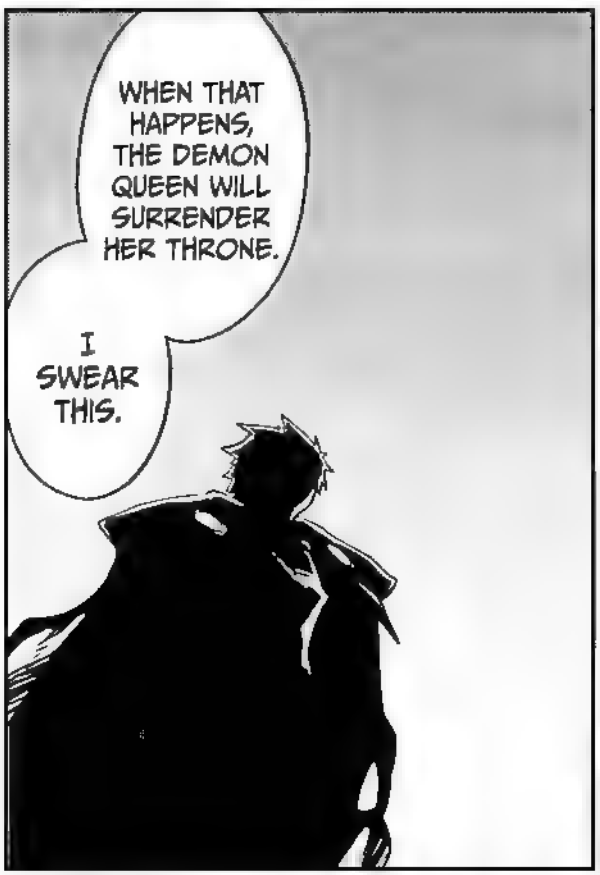

I CANNOT DO THAT!
THE FIRE DRAGON HEROES WILL TAKE BACK GATEWAY CITY!
I'M NOT FIGHTING BECAUSE I WANT TO KILL YOU.
I JUST WANT YOU TO WITHDRAW YOUR TROOPS.
TAKING BACK THE CITY IS THE FIRE DRAGONS'... NO, EVERY DEMON'S RESPONSIBILITY AND GREATEST DESIRE!
SPIRIT WORLD
GATEWAY CITY
GATE
SINCE THE INVASION, HUMAN ARMIES...
...HAVE BEEN GARRISONED IN THE HOLY LAND OF GATEWAY CITY.
BUT WHY ARE YOU, ENFORCER OF THE DEMON QUEEN, TRYING TO STOP US?

THE DEMON QUEEN ISSUED NO SUCH ORDERS.
ARE YOU DEFYING THE DEMON QUEEN?
I DO NOT RELY ON THAT COWARDLY DEMON QUEEN!
THE FIRE DRAGONS WILL RECLAIM THE HOLY LAND OURSELVES!
NO ONE WILL INTERRUPT OUR WORK!
THEN DEFEAT ME.
THE VICTOR IS SACRED AND RIGHTEOUS.
ISN'T THAT THE UNWRITTEN LAW OF THE SPIRIT WORLD?
!
THEN KILL ME!

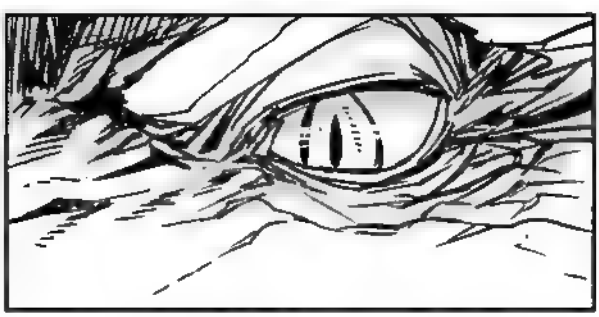
I, ARCHDUKE FIRE DRAGON, WAS BORN IN THE LAVA OF THE SPIRIT WORLD!
I WILL NOT RUN OR HIDE!
ROAR
THIS IS...
...GETTING TO BE A DIFFICULT PAIN IN THE BUTT.
WAIT!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
LET'S GO!
STEP
WE WOULD JUST GO ALL OUT!
I MISS BEING ABLE TO JUST KNOCK MY ENEMIES ASIDE.
HOW ABOUT THIS?
I, THE BLACK KNIGHT, WILL TAKE BACK GATEWAY CITY BY NEXT SPRING.

THE FIRE DRAGON CLAN IS WORRIED ABOUT ITS PRIDE, RIGHT?
YOU CAN'T STAND TO LET HUMANS OCCUPY THE SACRED LAND OF DEMONS.
IN THAT CASE...
...THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM AS LONG AS DEMON ARMIES RECLAIM GATEWAY CITY.
WHAT?
THEN THE DEMONS WILL RECLAIM THEIR HOLY GROUND AND PRIDE...
...AND THE DEMON QUEEN CAN ELIMINATE HER REPUTATION FOR BEING WEAK.
IN THE NAME OF THE DEMON QUEEN, I PROMISE I WILL DO THIS.


YOU THINK YOU CAN DO THAT?
THE ARMY STATIONED IN GATEWAY CITY IS THE STRONGEST ONE IN THE HUMAN WORLD.
THE DRAGON CLAN WILL NOT ASSIST YOU.
YEAH. I'LL DO IT.


WHEN THAT HAPPENS, THE DEMON QUEEN WILL SURRENDER HER THRONE.
I SWEAR THIS.

WE WILL NOT SHOW MERCY IF YOU FAIL TO KEEP YOUR OATH.



VERY WELL.
BURN
SERI-OUSLY ?
YES.
GOOD.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE IF YOU HAD REFUSED.
HMPH.
YOU COULD HAVE KILLED ME ANYTIME.
WE'RE BOTH THE DEMON QUEEN'S SUB-JECTS.
I DIDN'T WANT TO DO THAT.
I NEED TO PROTECT YOU WITH MY LIFE.
HAH.
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
WAAH

SUM-MON THE PRIN-CESS!
BURN
SOME-ONE!
SOME-ONE, COME!
WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
UH, THANKS.
YOU ARE TRULY CHIVAL-ROUS!
I LIKE YOU!
PRINCESS FIRE DRAGON
FATHER, I AM HERE.
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
MY DAUGH-TER.
DOESN'T SHE LOOK JUST LIKE ME?
UMM...
WHO IS SHE?

?
?
YOU HAVE NO OBJECTIONS, DO YOU?
THIS MAN IS STRONGER THAN I AM.
YES.
DO YOU MEAN ...
FATHER.
ONCE YOU FULFILL YOUR PROMISE, I WILL GIVE YOU MY DAUGHTER!
HA HA HA HA HA HA
YOU MAY TAKE HER FOR YOUR WIFE OR MISTRESS!
WAIT...

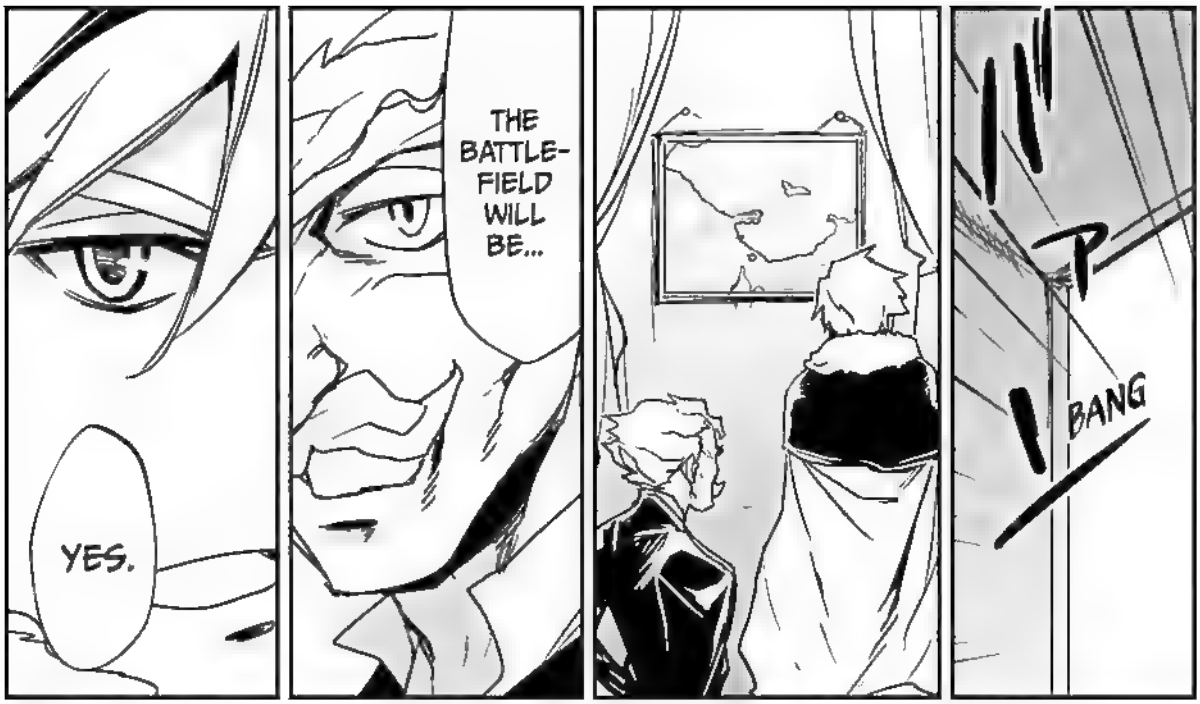
WAIT A MIN-UTE!
ぎゃはははは
HA HA HA HA HA HA
LA LA LA.
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
HUM HUM HUM.

YOU'RE IN A GOOD MOOD.
YEAH.
POL-ISHING POTS IS FUN.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
OUR JOBS ARE WARM AND PROPER.
I'M HAP-PY.
YOU'RE WORKING HARD.
THE CHIEF MAID IS GOOD AT LOOKING AFTER PEOPLE.
USING PROPER WORDS MAKE YOU POPULAR!
THE LADY WITH GLASSES TOLD ME SO.
SOON ...
...I'M GOING TO STUDY THE BOOK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
BUT SHE'S SCARY.
SHE GETS REAL MAD.
SHE'S NOT ANGRY. SHE'S JUST SCOLDING YOU.
SHE'S ACTUAL-LY VERY NICE.

I'M NOT GOING. I HAVE MY WORK.
YOU'D PROBABLY BE REALLY POPULAR SINCE YOU LEARNED LOTS OF WORDS.
LOTS OF BOYS AND GIRLS ARE GOING TO DANCE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE VILLAGE.
ARE YOU GOING TO THE END OF YEAR FESTIVAL?
YES.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I HOPE THE HERO COMES BACK SOON.
THE MISTRESS HAS BEEN DOWN TOO.
...TO GIVE TO EVERY-ONE AT THE MAN-SION.
LET'S PREPARE PRESENTS FOR THE END OF YEAR FESTIVAL...

YEAH.
CLIP-CLOP
CLIP-CLOP
CLIP-CLOP
DAMN IT!
I'LL HEAD THERE IMMEDIATELY!
HE'S HEADED TO THE KINGDOM MEETING.
OLD MAN!
WHERE IS MY FATHER?
SNORT
YOUNG SIR!
RUSTLE
NEIGH!

YEAH.
THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR THAT ANYMORE.
YOU DIDN'T GET TO OBSERVE ...
...OVER-WINTER VILLAGE.
SOME PEOPLE MUST BELIEVE ...
...IF THEY DON'T CONVINCE US OF THE EVIL AND TERROR OF DEMONS...
...AND THE IMPOR-TANCE OF A HUMAN VICTORY, THEY CAN-NOT MAIN-TAIN THEIR INFLUENCE.
WE SHOULD BE FOCUSING ON DOMESTIC AFFAIRS WHILE THE DEMONS HAVE LET UP ON THEIR ASSAULT...
...BUT THE CENTRAL CONTINENT WON'T ALLOW IT.
WITHOUT THE WAR, OUR KINGDOM WOULDN'T RECEIVE MONEY.
WITHOUT ROBBERS, THEY HAVE NOTHING TO FEED THEIR GUARD DOGS.



THE END

Chapter 6

Choose One of Two Paths

THE DEVELOPMENT of the COMPASS and the EXPANSION OF THE SPHERE OF ACTIVITY

The groundbreaking invention of the compass (which brought about Western Europe's age of exploration) was based on the Chinese feng shui tool known as the Lo-Pan.

THE COMPASS: A EPOCH-MAKING INVENTION

The magnets that serve as the core of the compass were first discovered in the year 600 BCE formed in the natural lodestones of ancient Greece. However, the compass was invented far away in China. Since 240 BCE, China knew of the existence of magnets, and they were already using spoon-shaped compasses that would indicate North and South.

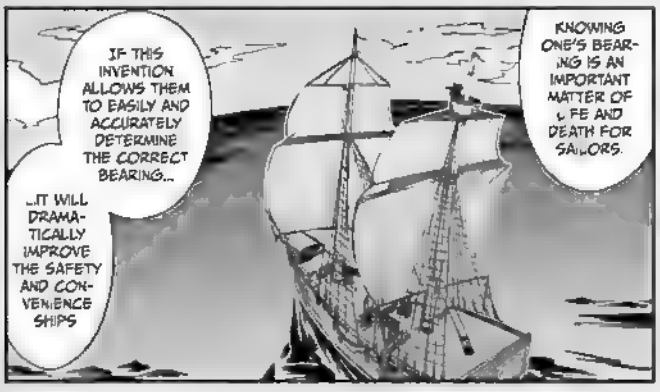
UNTIL NOW, COMPASSES HAVE SIMPLY BEEN MAGNETS FLOATING IN WATER.
YOU IMPROVED ON THE MODEL BY ADDING A TWO-SPINDLE SHAFT TO KEEP IT LEVEL.
WE WERE SURPRISED BY THE COMPASS YOU SENT US.

The compass invented by the Demon Queen overcame the weakness of becoming unusable when boats rocked.

Later, in 25 BCE during the Later Han Dynasty, with a deeper understanding of directions, the early compass was improved upon to create the "Lo-Pan." The Lo-Pan is a basic tool of feng shui and is used to measure the direction spaces and buildings face. There is a compass needle in the center, and the outside is engraved with not only the cardinal directions, but also with two cycles of the 12 signs of the Chinese zodiac dividing the circle into 24 pieces.

There are many theories on how the compass reached Western Europe. Some legends describe the primitive method of using magnetic needles floating in water was developed in China during the Song Dynasty in the 11th Century, and this technique was brought to Europe via the Arabs. Others say the compass was an improvement over the devices Marco Polo brought back from China. In *Maoyu*, the Young Merchant says "Until now, compasses have simply been magnets floating in water," meaning it must be based on the theory of said method being transmitted. Meanwhile, the Demon Queen's invention is supported by two shafts, allowing the compass to remain level even while aboard a violently rocking ship. The compass pedestal is meant to be mounted on the hull of a ship.

The actual method of transmission aside, historically the advent of the compass lead to developments in navigational technology, and it led to the beginning of the Age of Exploration. In both Western Europe during the Middle Ages and in the world of *Maoyu*, the compass was a groundbreaking invention.


IF THIS INVENTION ALLOWS THEM TO EASILY AND ACCURATELY DETERMINE THE CORRECT BEARING...
...IT WILL DRAMATICALLY IMPROVE THE SAFETY AND CONVENIENCE SHIPS
KNOWING ONE'S BEARING IS AN IMPORTANT MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH FOR SAILORS.

True to the saying "a sailor has only an inch of plank between him and death," sailing always comes with danger.

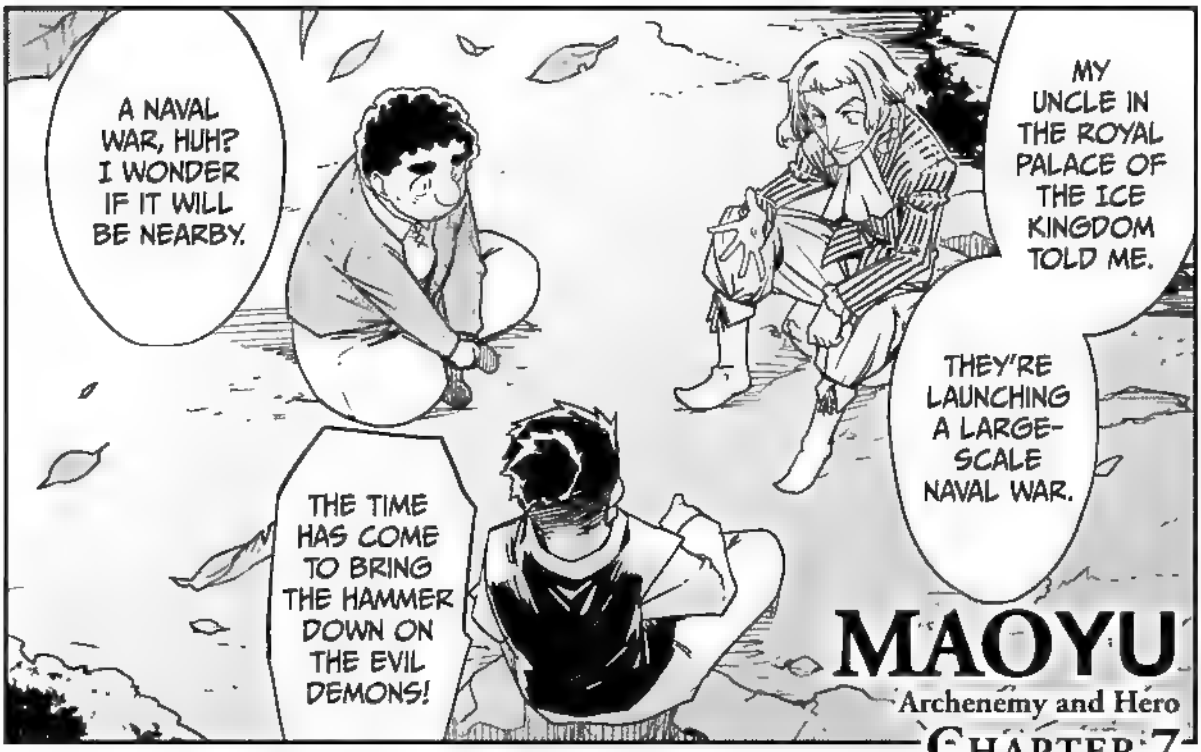
With improvements to the safety of navigation, those who previously feared the risks of sailing can now take to the seas. Most importantly, the expansion in the range of sea travel stimulates maritime trade.

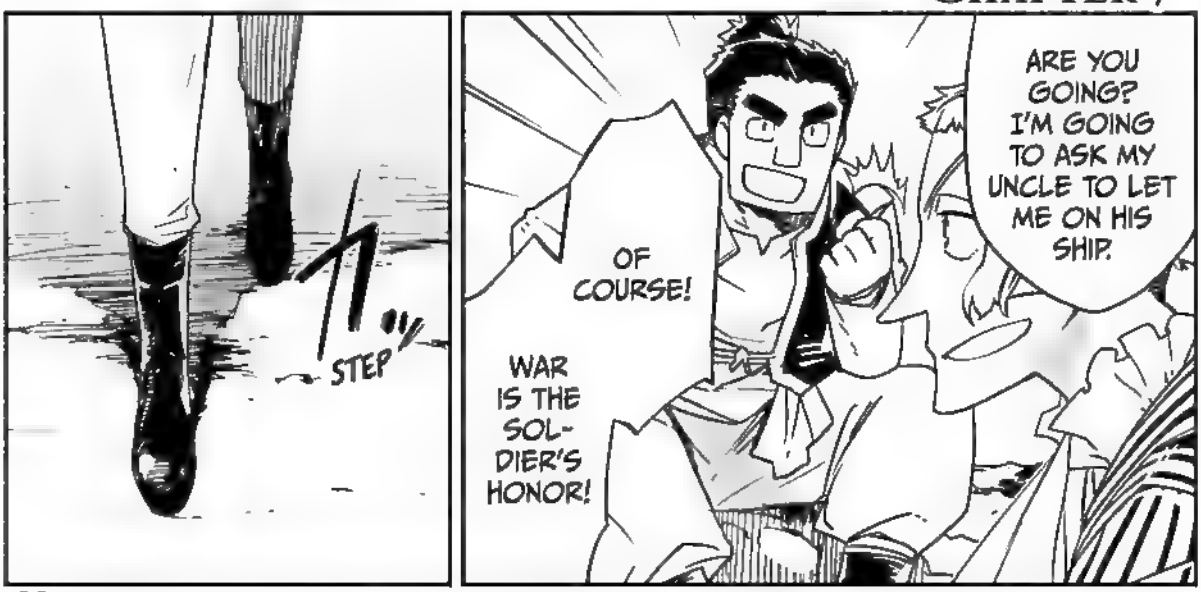
Because of this, when the Young Merchant saw the improved compass sent to him by the Demon Queen, he understood it would generate significant profits, and he visited the Demon Queen to negotiate for exclusive use of the technology.

SOMEONE NOT SEEN BEFORE

PRIN-
CESS.
THIS WAS SUDDENLY FORCED ON YOU. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT WITH THIS?
HE WAS A BRAVE WARRIOR CAPABLE OF DEFEAT-ING YOU, FATHER.
I HAVE NO OBJEC-TIONS.
THOUGH ...
...IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THERE COULD BE ANYONE ELSE.
I SEE.
WHAT IF SOMEONE ELSE WERE ABLE TO DEFEAT ME?
IF THAT EVER HAPPENS, I WILL HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT.

WE'RE GOING TO WAR?
IS IT THIS WINTER, THEN?
IT'S DECIDED.


A NAVAL WAR, HUH? I WONDER IF IT WILL BE NEARBY.
MY UNCLE IN THE ROYAL PALACE OF THE ICE KINGDOM TOLD ME.
THEY'RE LAUNCHING A LARGE-SCALE NAVAL WAR.
THE TIME HAS COME TO BRING THE HAMMER DOWN ON THE EVIL DEMONS!
MAOYU
Archenemy and Hero
CHAPTER 7


STEP
ARE YOU GOING? I'M GOING TO ASK MY UNCLE TO LET ME ON HIS SHIP.
OF COURSE!
WAR IS THE SOL-DIER'S HONOR!

CHAPTER 7 Archenemy and Hero
There Are So Many Things I Don't Know

RIDICULE AND SCORN ARE USELESS ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT SPIRIT IS AN ENEMY TO SURVIVAL.
YES, MA' AM!
YOU, SOL-DIER.
THAT'S THE DEMON STRONG-HOLD IN THE HUMAN WORLD.
THE DAY HAS COME TO BRING THE HAMMER DOWN ON THE EVIL AND COWARDLY DEMONS!
?
WHAT IS IT YOU ARE STUDYING HERE?
I WILL ASK YOU ONLY ONCE.
YOU'RE WRONG.
REFINED WISDOM!
THE IMPRESSIVE SWORD TECH-NIQUES OF YOU AND THE SWORDSMAN!
UMM ...
WISDOM RELATED TO TRADE AND COM-MERCE?

HERE...
...YOU ARE STUDYING THE ECONOMIC THEORY OF THAT SCHOLAR WITH THE MADDENING CHEST.
ADDITIONALLY, THE MONKS HAVE TAUGHT YOU THE FOUNDATIONS OF PRACTICAL MEDICINE AND AGRICULTURAL TECHNIQUES ...
...AND I HAVE TAUGHT YOU TO WIELD SWORDS AND SPEARS AND TO RIDE HORSES.
WE HAVE GIVEN YOU AN EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION IN ALL THINGS RELATED TO WAR.

YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS EXCEED THOSE OF A MERE SOLDIER...
...AND HAVE BEEN TAUGHT TO YOU SO YOU CAN STAND BESIDE MONARCHS AND LEAD WARS.
DO NOT FORGET...
...THE VALUE OF WHAT YOU HAVE ACQUIRED AND ARE STILL TRYING TO ACQUIRE.

IT IS FAR MORE MEANINGFUL THAN THINGS THAT EXIST SIMPLY...
...TO DEFEAT ONE'S ENEMIES.

OPEN YOUR EYES...
...AND LISTEN CLOSELY.
TREAT EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD AS KNOWLEDGE TO HELP YOU WIN...
...AND DOUBT EVERYTHING.
QUESTION WHETHER THINGS ARE TRULY RIGHT.
IF YOU STILL INSIST ON GOING TO WAR, I WILL NOT STOP YOU.
HOWEVER, I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO DIE.
YOU ARE FAR TOO GREEN TO DIE.
IF YOU WERE TO DIE NOW, YOU WOULDN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU DID WRONG UNTIL THAT MOMENT...
...AND YOUR EXPRESSIONS WOULD BE DAZED AS THE MOMENT APPROACHED.
I WILL NOT ALLOW THAT.

WE WILL BEGIN TRAINING!
TODAY'S TRAINING WILL BE THREE TIMES HARDER THAN NORMAL!
PREPARE YOURSELVES!
EEK
I CAN'T BELIEVE I SAID THAT.
I SHOULDN'T BE ACTING HIGH AND MIGHTY.
I'M JUST A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER.
SLUMP
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
I THINK YOU'RE DOING A MUCH BETTER JOB THAN THE HERO.
KLINK
HERE YOU ARE.
THANKS
HE'S IRRESPONSIBLE.

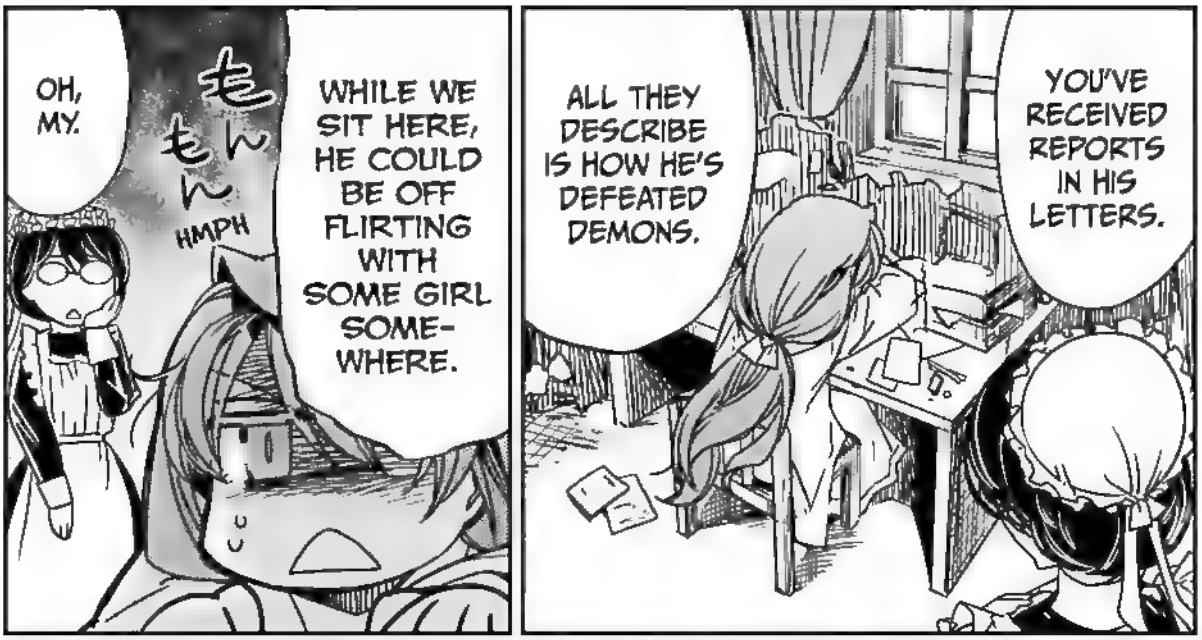
YEAH.
BUT...
...THAT IS WHAT YOU THINK, ISN'T IT?
THIS IS IT, HUH?
IT'S CACAO TEA
I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD, BUT HE APPEARED AFTER A YEAR.
WHEN I CAME TO THIS VILLAGE HE LEFT, AND HE HASN'T BEEN BACK IN A YEAR.
I COULDN'T KEEP THIS UP UNLESS I THOUGHT HE BELIEVED IN ME.
IT'S SWEET.
....
OU'RE STARTING TO ACT LIKE THE CHIEF MAID.
THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU WONDERFUL.
....
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.
YEAH.
YOUR GESTURES ARE JUST LIKE HERS.
RE-ALLY?

I'VE LEARNED TO READ, AND I'VE LEARNED MY NUMBERS.
I HAVE LEARNED TO DO MANY THINGS.
BUT...
HAVE I...
?
HAVE I...
...BECOME A HUMAN?

DID YOU FINISH WRITING YOUR REQUEST TO THE MONASTIC ORDER?
THAT SHOULD ...
...DO IT.
TWIST
REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL TESTING SPACE AND STAFF.
SCRITCH
SCRITCH

WHAT IS THIS?
A BILL FROM THE ALLIANCE.
!
!
A REPORT CAME FROM THE MONASTIC ORDER.
THE CULTIVATION OF POTATOES IS COMING ALONG WELL.
BUT THE SPECIFIC REPLANT DISEASE SHOULD START APPEARING SOON...
PLEASE SIGN THESE DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE COMPASS.
DO THEY HAVE A ROUGH PLAN FOR MASS PRODUCTION?
THE YOUNG MERCHANT WORKS QUICKLY.
I DIDN'T THINK MY AMOUNT OF WORK WOULD INCREASE THIS MUCH.
THERE'S NO END TO IT.
WHY AM I SO BUSY?
ARGH

NO...
YOU DON'T THINK SHE CAN?
HER?
ALL RIGHT. I'LL HAVE THE OLDER MAID SISTER DO IT.
FLOP
...STARTING TODAY, IT'S HER JOB TO SORT THROUGH THESE DOCUMENTS.
THEN ...
KREEK
I SEE.
IT WILL BE FINE. SHE CAN DO IT.
I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HIM IN SIX MONTHS.
IT'S ALREADY FALL.
HMPH


YOU'VE RECEIVED REPORTS IN HIS LETTERS.
ALL THEY DESCRIBE IS HOW HE'S DEFEATED DEMONS.
WHILE WE SIT HERE, HE COULD BE OFF FLIRTING WITH SOME GIRL SOMEWHERE.
HMPH
OH, MY.

....
I'M LONELY.

THAT'S ENOUGH WORK FOR TODAY.
YEAH.
I'LL GO MAKE YOU SOME SWEET TEA.
SLAM!

DID YOU HEAR THAT, HERO?
YEAH...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT.
I BROUGHT YOU TEA AND A LIGHT MEAL.
THANKS.
I'M FINISHED WRIT-ING MY REPORT TOO.
IT'S GOOD
HOT.
....
KLICK
WHY ARE YOU AVOIDING THE DEMON QUEEN?
YOU CAN RETURN OCCASIONALLY USING YOUR DISPLACEMENT MAGIC, CAN'T YOU?
OH.
YEAH.

WHEN SHE FIRST ASKED ME TO BECOME HERS...
...I THOUGHT SHE NEEDED MY ABILITIES AS A HERO.
BUT SHE DOESN'T RELY ON MY COMBAT ABILITIES. SHE AVOIDS FIGHTING.
SHE SEEMS TO TREAT ME LIKE I'M IMPORTANT... LIKE SHE LOVES ME.
IT'S BE-CAUSE ...
...THE DEMON QUEEN DOESN'T NEED ME.
HERO, THE DEMON QUEEN HAS...
I KNOW. I'M NOT THAT STUPID.
IT'S NOT THAT I CAN'T BELIEVE...
...SHE MIGHT HAVE FEELINGS FOR ME.

ALL I KNOW HOW TO DO IS FIGHT.
IT SEEMS INSINCERE FOR ME...
...TO RETURN THE DEMON QUEEN'S FEELINGS.
SINCE I'M HUMAN...
...I'M GOING TO DIE BEFORE THE DEMON QUEEN .
EVERYTHING YOU ARE BELONGS TO THE DEMON QUEEN.
THE HESITATION AND COMPASSION YOU FEEL...
YOUR DESIRES, HOPES, PRAYERS, AND EVEN YOUR HIDDEN FEELINGS ...
...ALL BELONG TO THE DEMON QUEEN.
PERHAPS IT'S NOT RIGHT FOR A MAID TO INTERJECT IN THIS SITUATION ...
...BUT THERE IS ONE THING.

DO NOT FORGET THAT.
...YOU ACQUIRE.
THAT INCLUDES THE HAPPINESS AND UNHAPPINESS...
I WISH WE COULD PREPARE FOR EVEN LARGER MASS PRODUCTION.
THERE WILL BE A NAVAL BATTLE SOON.
IT'S GOOD.
THE ENGINEER OF THE COPPER KINGDOM WAS BRAGGING HE HAS IMPROVED ITS ACCURACY.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

THEY SAY YOU CAN LIVE TOGETHER BUT IN DIFFERENT WORLDS.
WITH HER, WE CAN DREAM THE SAME DREAM WHILE SLEEPING IN DIFFER-ENT BEDS.
BY THE WAY, I HEARD THE NEWS.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE IN LOVE.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU'D MARRY YOUR GOLD COINS.
MIDDLE AGED MERCHANT
TRADING PARTNERS ARE SACRED. THEY'RE MORE IMPORTANT THAN LOVE.
YOU'RE BOASTING ABOUT HER? I CAN'T HANDLE IT.
SHE IS MY STAR.
NOW, THEN.
HOW WILL THIS BATTLE TURN OUT?

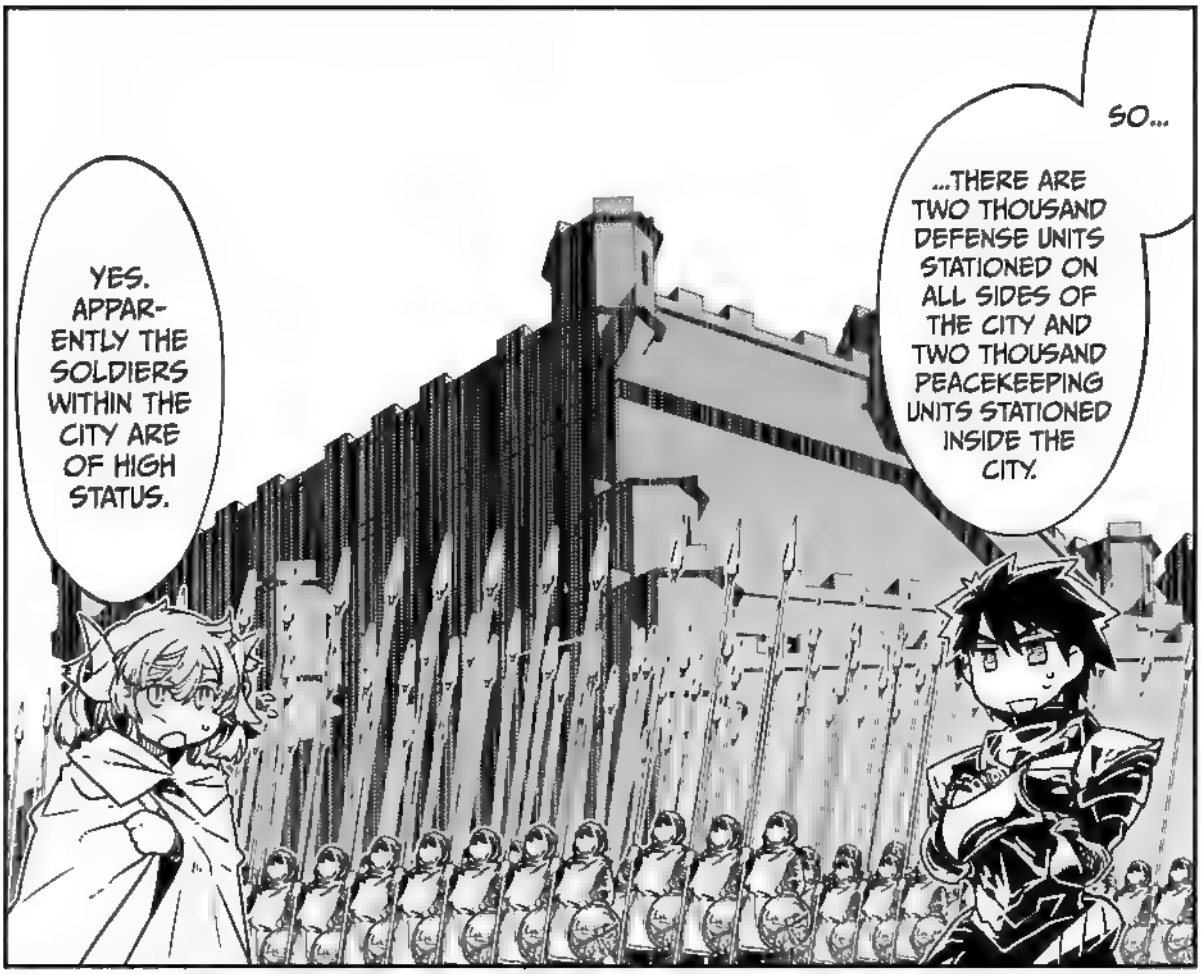
SPIRIT WORLD GATEWAY CITY
HA HA.. HA HA HA
CRASH
CRASH
HA
HA
HA
HA
HEH HEH HEH
SHRIEK
HA
HA
HA
HA
THIS AGAIN?
I WISH THEY'D STOP.
AH!
YANK
COME ON, DANCE!
DON'T RESIST US, DEMON!
WHISTLE
DON'T BE SO STINGY!
HA
HA
HA
HA

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
Y-YES.
THANK YOU.
IT WAS THE GLORIOUS HOLY KEY ARMY?
I'M GRATEFUL OF COURSE.
SIR, IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO THAT KIND OF THING...
...COULD YOU TAKE IT TO THE INN OUT BACK?
WHAT?
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE TO THANK FOR YOUR LIFE HERE?
!
THAT'S...
...THE DEMON QUEEN'S CREST.
DEMON GIRL
LOOK AT THIS.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS?
GLOW
I WANT TO KNOW THE SITUATION IN THE CITY.
CAN WE TALK?
YES.
GOOD GRIEF
HA HA HA
HA HA
BAR-TEND-ER.

I'LL PAY YOU WELL.
IN THAT CASE, IT'S FINE.
DON'T BE TOO RECKLESS WITH HER.
JINGLE
HUH?
COULD I BORROW THIS GIRL FOR A WHILE?
MAN, HE'S YOUNG
HA HA HA HA HA
KREEK
KREEK
I WON'T.
I JUST WANT TO TALK TO HER.
TALK, HUH? WELL, TRY NOT TO GO TOO HARD.
RUSTLE
?
I... I'M SORRY...
...FOR ACTING SO HURT.
START BY TELLING ME ABOUT THE SITUATION IN THE CITY...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO AFRAID.
NOW, THEN.
DO YOU WANT SOMETHING TO DRINK?
I... I'M FINE.

I'M...
UMM...
...NOT VERY GOOD.
I'M SORRY I'M NOT...
...BETTER AT THIS.

N-NO, NOT THAT!
I WON'T HURT YOU!
I WON'T DO ANYTHING THAT DOESN'T HURT, EITHER!
I JUST WANT TO TALK..
DON'T SPREAD YOUR LEGS!


SO...
...THERE ARE TWO THOUSAND DEFENSE UNITS STATIONED ON ALL SIDES OF THE CITY AND TWO THOUSAND PEACEKEEPING UNITS STATIONED INSIDE THE CITY.
YES. APPARENTLY THE SOLDIERS WITHIN THE CITY ARE OF HIGH STATUS.

THERE SEEM TO BE CIVILIANS LIKE THE BARTENDER LIVING IN THE CITY.
YES. THERE ARE MANY SHOPS.
THERE ARE ONLY HALF AS MANY DEMONS AS HUMANS.

ARE THE DEMONS TREATED LIKE SLAVES?
SLAVES? I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.
THEY DO TERRIBLE THINGS TO HURT US, AND FORCE US TO DO THINGS WE... DON'T WANT TO DO

ARE THESE THE FRUITS OF WAR WON BY HEROES?
IT CAN'T BE HELPED. WE LOST.
LOSERS ARE EVIL.
IT MUST BE HELL FOR DEMONS.
IS THIS WHAT HAPPENS TO THE GATEWAY CITY WE WON...
...BY FIGHTING THE EARTH DRAGON KING AND DEMON COMMANDER?
OH... SORRY.
QUIVER
QUIVER
IF THE DEMONS WIN, WILL THE ENTIRE HUMAN WORLD END UP THIS WAY?
SLAM
IF THE HUMANS WIN, WILL THE ENTIRE SPIRIT WORLD WILL END UP THIS WAY?

THE EASTERN FORTRESS, HUH?
I SEE.
BUT I HEARD THE PEOPLE IN THE EASTERN FORTRESS ARE NOT AS VIOLENT.
FLEEING DEMONS ARE TOLD...
...TO RUN EAST.
BLACK KNIGHT.
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T HELP YOU.
NO, YOU WERE PLENTY HELPFUL.
I APPRECIATE THE INFORMATION.
SO! UMM.
THAT MEANS THE MONEY IS GOING...!
HUH?
UMM, MAY I ASK YOU A QUESTION?

BLACK KNIGHT, WHY...
...WHY ARE YOU THE DEMON QUEEN'S KNIGHT...
...EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE HUMAN?
IT'S DIFFI-CULT TO EXPLAIN.
I GUESS, WELL...
I BELONG TO HER.
THE DEMON QUEEN.
HUH?
THEN...
...YOU LOST TO THE DEMON QUEEN.
AM I WRONG ?
AMONG DEMONS, WINNERS DO WITH LOSERS...
...AS THEY PLEASE.
IS THAT RIGHT?
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
HA HA
THAT'S RIGHT.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.

I BELONG TO THE DEMON QUEEN, BUT I DIDN'T BECOME HERS BECAUSE I LOST TO HER.
WINNERS ARE RIGHT...
...AND LOSERS CANNOT HELP WHATEVER HAPPENS TO THEM.
I AM...
...THE PATH THAT LEADS BEYOND THE HILL.
THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS.
I'M PROOF THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS.

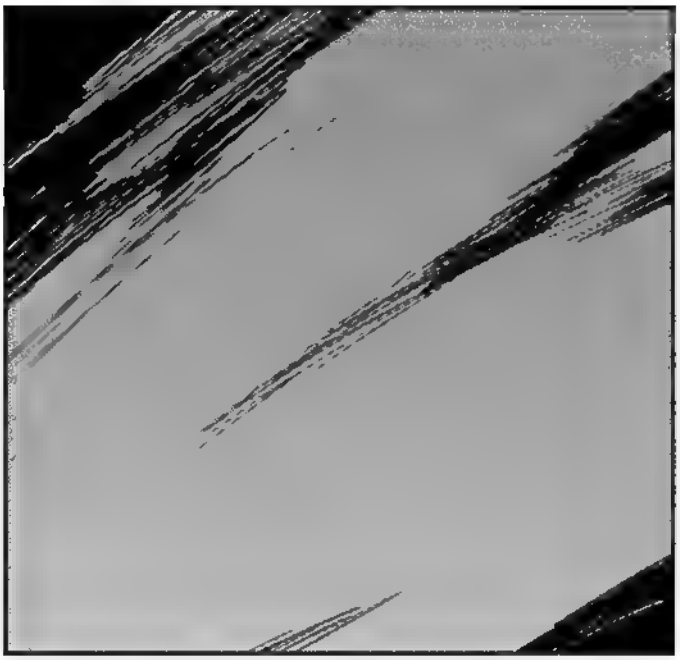
KNOCK
KNOCK
I HAVE FINISHED ORGANIZING THE DOCUMENTS BY SUBJECT.
GOOD WORK
OKAY.
LEAVE THEM THERE.
WHAT ARE THESE?
THOSE ARE FIRE ARROWS.
THEY'RE A KIND OF WEAPON.
YOU MAKE WEAPONS TOO.
YES.
IT WOULD BE FOOLISH NOT TO HAVE ANY.

WHAT IS WAR?
WHY DOES IT HAPPEN? WHY DOESN'T IT END?
MIS-TRESS, UMM...
THAT'S A RATHER DIFFICULT QUESTION.
I WONDER WHY.
YOU MEAN YOU DON'T KNOW, EITHER?
I DON'T KNOW.
WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?
I THOUGHT THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE WORLD YOU DIDN'T KNOW.
THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I DON'T KNOW.

WARS ARE LARGE-SCALE CONFLICTS.
CONFLICTS ARE DISCORD BETWEEN GROUPS.
WHEN TWO GROUPS MEET, THERE IS SOME FRICTION AND OPPO-SITION.
CONFLICT IS BORN WHERE THERE IS AN ACTION AND REACTION.
SUPPOSE THERE ARE TWO CHILDREN IN A VILLAGE WHO MEET.
THEY ARE TWO SEPARATE ENTITIES. TWO DISTINCT ENTITIES MEET.
THAT CHILD IS NOT ME, AND I AM NOT THAT CHILD.
PART OF WHAT HAPPENS THERE IS CONFLICT.
BUT TWO PEOPLE MEETING DOESN'T ALWAYS RESULT IN CONFLICT!
SOMETIMES SOMETHING WONDER-FUL HAP-PENS, LIKE THE TWO OF THEM BECOMING FRIENDS!
THAT'S RIGHT. THAT'S WHY CONFLICT IS PART OF THOSE WONDERFUL THINGS.
FUNDA-MENTALLY, THEY ARE THE SAME.

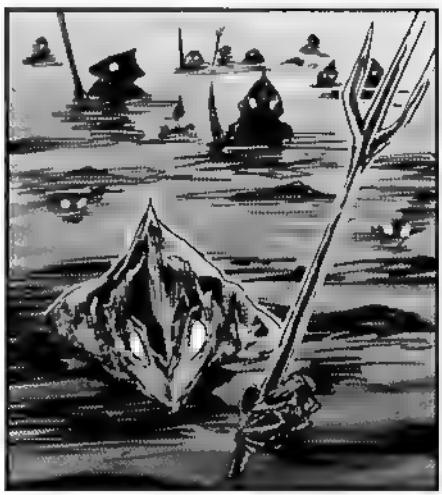
BUT THAT'S WHAT I HAVE LEARNED.
NEITHER DO I.
I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE THAT.
MANY PEOPLE DIE IN WARS...
...BUT THAT TRAGEDY IS PART OF EVERY ENCOUNTER. IT'S ONE WAY PEOPLE GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER.
THAT'S AN ENCOUN-TER?
IT'S NOTHING BUT PAIN, SORROW, HUNGER, AND COLD.

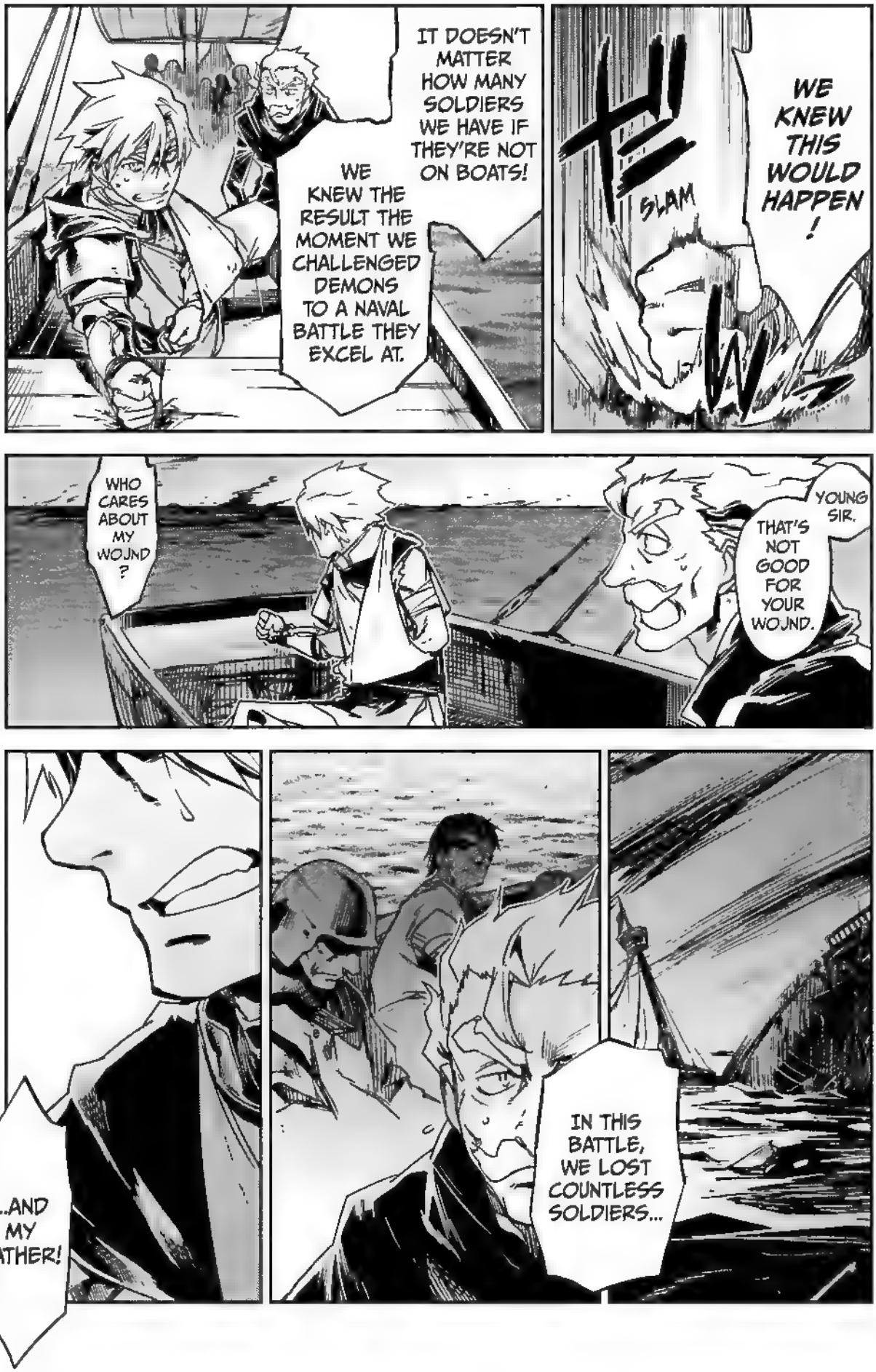
THEN WHY DO PEOPLE GO TO WAR?
WHY?
WHY?
THOUGH CONFLICT IS ONE FORM RELATIONSHIPS TAKE, NOT EVERY RELATIONSHIP IS A CONFLICT.
THERE ARE FRIENDLY AND SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIPS IN THIS WORLD.
HOW COULD THAT BE NECESSARY?
I THINK IT'S BECAUSE IT'S NECESSARY.
IT MAY SEEM PARADOXICAL, BUT IT IS POSSIBLE.
IT'S SIMILAR TO HOW WE ARE NOT BORN AS ADULTS.
I BELIEVE IT'S NECESSARY TO GRADUATE TO THE NEXT STEP.



THE TRUTH IS I DON'T KNOW.
THERE ARE MANY THINGS I DON'T KNOW.

WHOOSH




IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY SOLDIERS WE HAVE IF THEY'RE NOT ON BOATS!
WE KNEW THE RESULT THE MOMENT WE CHALLENGED DEMONS TO A NAVAL BATTLE THEY EXCEL AT.
SLAM
WE KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN!
WHO CARES ABOUT MY WOUND?
YOUNG SIR, THAT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOUR WOUND.
...AND MY FATHER!
IN THIS BATTLE, WE LOST COUNTLESS SOLDIERS...

ROAR
CLANG
CLANG
THUD
ARGH!
!
HOW DOES IT LOOK?
A SMALL GROUP OF OUR SHIPS MANAGED TO BREAK AWAY!
CLANG!

THE REST IS UP TO YOU...
...MY SON.

SOUTHERN KINGDOMS WAR COUNCIL
THAT'S WHY I OPPOSED THE IDEA...
...OF TRYING TO OVERWHELM THE AQUATIC DEMONS WITH NUMBERS WITHOUT ANY COUNTER-MEASURES!
IRON FIST KING
OUT OF 200 WARSHIPS, ONLY 15 RETURNED.
LESS THAN 500 MEN SURVIVED.
BLIZZARD QUEEN

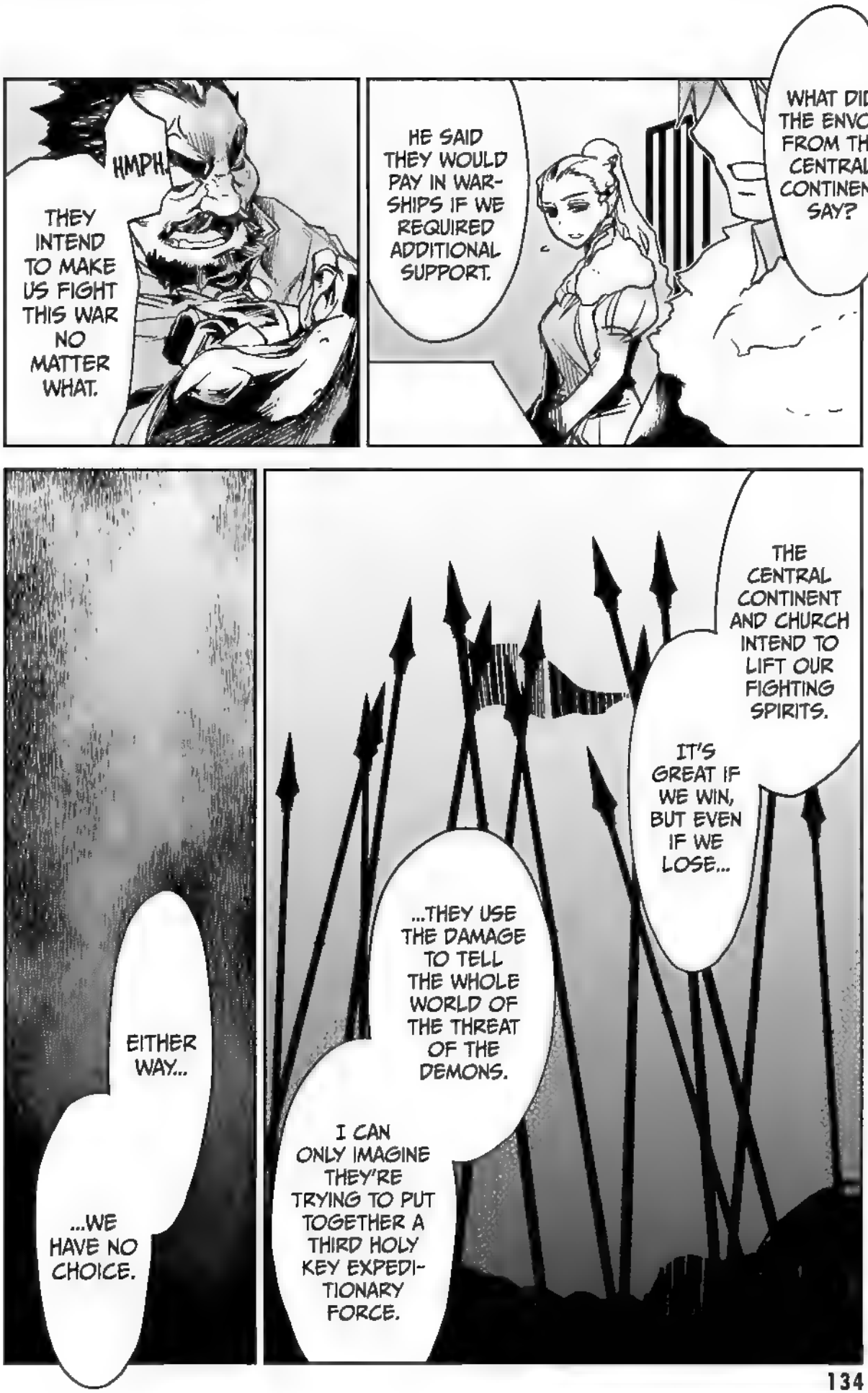
MIDNIGHT SUN KING
Q-QUIET!
I AM ROYALTY! I HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO LIVE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE SUPREME COMMANDER SHAMELESSLY RETURNED.
YOU ONLY ESCAPED ALIVE BECAUSE THE BATTLESHIPS OF THE WINTER KINGDOM BOUGHT YOU TIME!
HMPH.
THAT ISLAND WAS TAKEN FROM US BECAUSE THE WINTER KING FAILED TO PROTECT IT.
THIS ISN'T ENOUGH TO COMPENSATE FOR HIS ERROR.
YOU HAVE MY SYMPATHIES.
IT'S FINE.
IT WAS AN ENDING FIT FOR MY FATHER.

AT THE TIME ...
...MANY OF THE SOUTHERN KINGDOMS' FORCES WERE INVESTED IN THE HOLY KEY ARMY'S EXPEDITION INTO THE SPIRIT WORLD.
IT WAS TOTAL WAR.
WE ARE ALL TO BLAME FOR THE STATE OF THE DEFENSES.
IN THAT CASE, THIS STRATEGY WAS ALSO...
...SUGGESTED BY THE HOLY KINGDOM AND THE CHURCH OF LIGHT.
DO YOU THINK THE SOUTHERN KINGDOMS ARE IN ANY POSITION TO TURN DOWN THEIR PROPOSALS?

...AT THE REQUEST OF THE HOLY KINGDOM AND THE CHURCH OF LIGHT!
IF THE WINTER KING IS NOT TO BLAME, THEN NEITHER AM I!
I WAS CHOSEN BY CONSENSUS TO BE THE SUPREME COMMANDER AND LEAD OUR FLEET...
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
WHO CARES IF ZOO SHIPS WERE DESTROYED?
NOW WE WILL ACQUIRE NEW WARSHIPS.
SMASH

QUIET.
MY FATHER LOST HIS LIFE DOING WHAT HE BELIEVED IN.
MIDNIGHT SUN KING...
NEITHER I NOR ANYONE IN THE WINTER KINGDOM ...
...BLAME YOU FOR THAT.

HA!
RESPONSIBILITY?
VERY WELL.
I SHALL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY.
YOUR LACK OF STRATEGY COST 6,000 SOLDIERS THEIR LIVES.
SURELY AS A MEMBER OF ROYALTY YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT MEANS.
HOWEVER...
...THAT DOES NOT ALLOW YOU TO AVOID RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS LOSS.
SUCH NERVE.
THE TIME...
...IS NOW.
IT'S MONEY, ISN'T IT?
HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT? HOW MUCH SHALL I PAY?
IT SEEMS THE SON OF THE ANTARCTIC OCEAN'S SPEAR-WIELDING KING IS A MONEY-GRUBBER.


HMPH.
THEY INTEND TO MAKE US FIGHT THIS WAR NO MATTER WHAT.
HE SAID THEY WOULD PAY IN WAR-SHIPS IF WE REQUIRED ADDITIONAL SUPPORT.
WHAT DID THE ENVOY FROM THE CENTRAL CONTINENT SAY?
THE CENTRAL CONTINENT AND CHURCH INTEND TO LIFT OUR FIGHTING SPIRITS.
IT'S GREAT IF WE WIN, BUT EVEN IF WE LOSE...
...THEY USE THE DAMAGE TO TELL THE WHOLE WORLD OF THE THREAT OF THE DEMONS.
I CAN ONLY IMAGINE THEY'RE TRYING TO PUT TOGETHER A THIRD HOLY KEY EXPEDI-TIONARY FORCE.
EITHER WAY...
...WE HAVE NO CHOICE.

SEE?
WE ARE NOTHING MORE THAN DOGS.
THEN WE ARE DOGS.
I WILL SHOW YOU HOW STUBBORN A DOG CAN BE.
HA!
CLATTER
YOU MUSTN'T!
YOU DON'T MEAN...
?

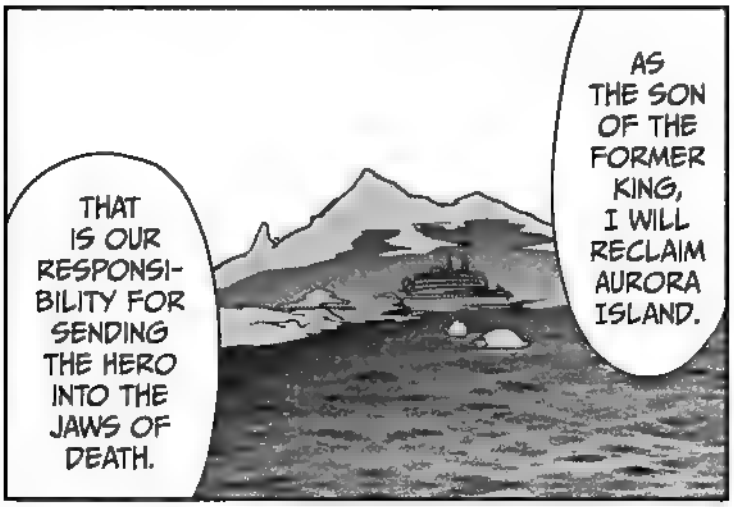
I NOW...
...DECLARE MYSELF THE LONELY WINTER KING.
OVER THIS WINTER, I WILL CARRY OUT THE SECOND OPERATION TO RECOVER AURORA ISLAND!

WITH JUST THE WINTER KING-DOM?
IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS!
WHAT?
!

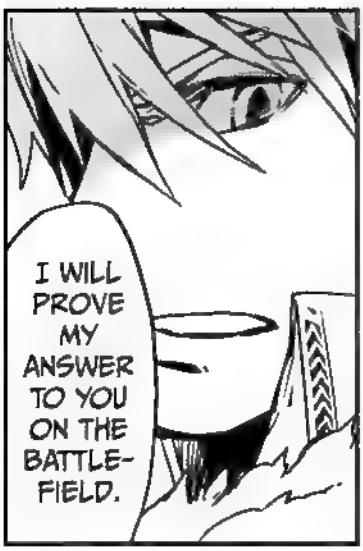
THE ACHIEVEMENT WAS THE WORK OF A SINGLE HERO.
!
?
!
LAST YEAR THE DEMON QUEEN WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED ...
...AND THE DEMONS' MOVEMENTS HAVE SLOWED TO THIS POINT.
WE FORCED THE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY THIS COUNCIL SHOULD BE HANDLING ON A SINGLE YOUNG MAN.
IT IS THE SOUTHERN KINGDOMS' FAULT HE WENT ALONE...
...AND HAD TO DIE.
AND SO...
...A SINGLE STAR DISAPPEARED FROM THIS WORLD.

THOSE WHO HAVE BECOME JESTERS OF THE CENTRAL CONTINENT WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND.
ROYALTY HAS SOMETHING CALLED LOYALTY.
A HERO?
HMPH
HE WAS JUST A SOLDIER!
BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT ALWAYS ONE AND THE SAME, IT CAN BE HEART-LESS AT TIMES.
LIKE MY FATHER, SOMETIMES I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO AVOID MAKING DIFFICULT DECISIONS.
THAT IS...
...PROTECT-ING THE PEOPLE AND PROTECTING THE KING-DOM.
FOR THEIR ENTIRE LIVES, ROYALTY SHOULDER THIS RESPON-SIBILITY...
...AND TAKE ON THIS BLAME.

BANG


AS THE SON OF THE FORMER KING, I WILL RECLAIM AURORA ISLAND.
THAT IS OUR RESPONSI-BILITY FOR SENDING THE HERO INTO THE JAWS OF DEATH.

WE MUST ENDEAVOR TO CAST EVEN ONE ONE-THOUSANDTH OF THE LIGHT THE HERO SHOULD HAVE CAST ON THE SOUTHERN KINGDOMS.


I WILL PROVE MY ANSWER TO YOU ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.

CAN YOU DO THAT, BOY?

YES, SIR.
TO WHOM?
THE COUNCIL HAS BROKEN DOWN.
SEND A MESSENGER AT ONCE.
SLAM!!!
YOUNG SIR.
STEP
THE PERSON WHO...
...WILL BECOME SUPREME COMMANDER IN THE NEXT WAR.

WHY WARS OCCUR Part 1

Why do wars occur? War changes alongside developments in humanity. Let us consider why they occur.

The question casually asked by the Older Sister Maid is a question still unanswered by humanity.

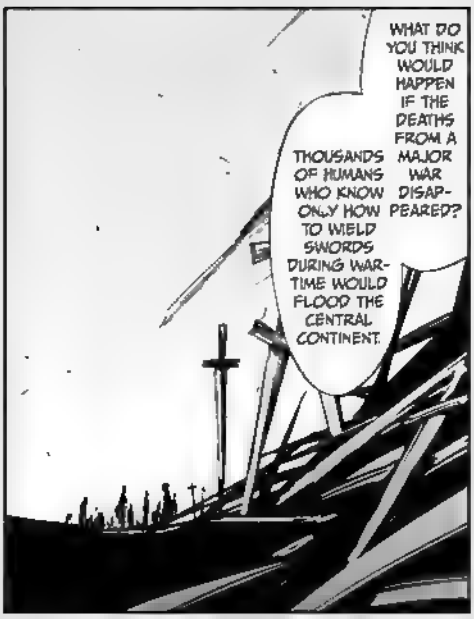
THE PRIMARY REASONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN SOCIETY AND WAR

The strict definition of war is hostile combat operations carried out by a nation or one of its organizations in order to realize their goals. However, for convenience, here war refers to all "hostile combat operations carried out by a group" in general.

In the modern era, the sentiment that "war is bad" is unmistakably considered common sense by the people, but why do wars still occur? As the Demon Queen explains in this work, wars are large-scale versions of conflicts. True to the saying "the history of humankind is the history of war," looking back through history, war occurs so frequently throughout the world it is practically a daily occurrence, and there are only a few instances during which there actually was no war occurring anywhere.

Throughout primitive and ancient times, the primary cause of war were issues regarding securing food. Food consumption levels increased with the rising population, but in an era of underdeveloped technology, it was not easy to clear additional farmland. Even when hunting animals as a food source, because it is better to have fewer competitors, there were always conflicts over hunting grounds.

However, as people acquired land and food supplies stabilized, the population increased further. Things were fine while there was still more land available, but if there was no other livable land, people were forced to steal land from other groups. Also, because group leaders must protect their people, sometimes people would wage wars of self-defense in order to absorb competitors.


WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD HAPPEN IF THE DEATHS FROM A MAJOR WAR DISAPPEARED?
THOUSANDS OF HUMANS WHO KNOW ONLY HOW TO WIELD SWORDS DURING WARTIME WOULD FLOOD THE CENTRAL CONTINENT.

In addition to factors of economic development and increasing population, this work also describes population control resulting from wartime casualties.

By the time landowners and monarchs were born, food supplies had stabilized. However, now those in power began taking wealth and power from one another and securing markets created through developments in commerce and industry, and wars motivated by human greed began occurring. Additionally, conflicts between differing religions also occurred, such as the numerous conflicts between Western Europe and the Islamic World, and the causes of war became more numerous. In recent years, economic factors are the largest cause of wars. The pie humans must divide amongst themselves is limited, but when things are destroyed in war new demand is generated, and with fewer people the profit of each person increases. In other words, because human greed knows no limits, it is inevitable that humans will wage wars endlessly.

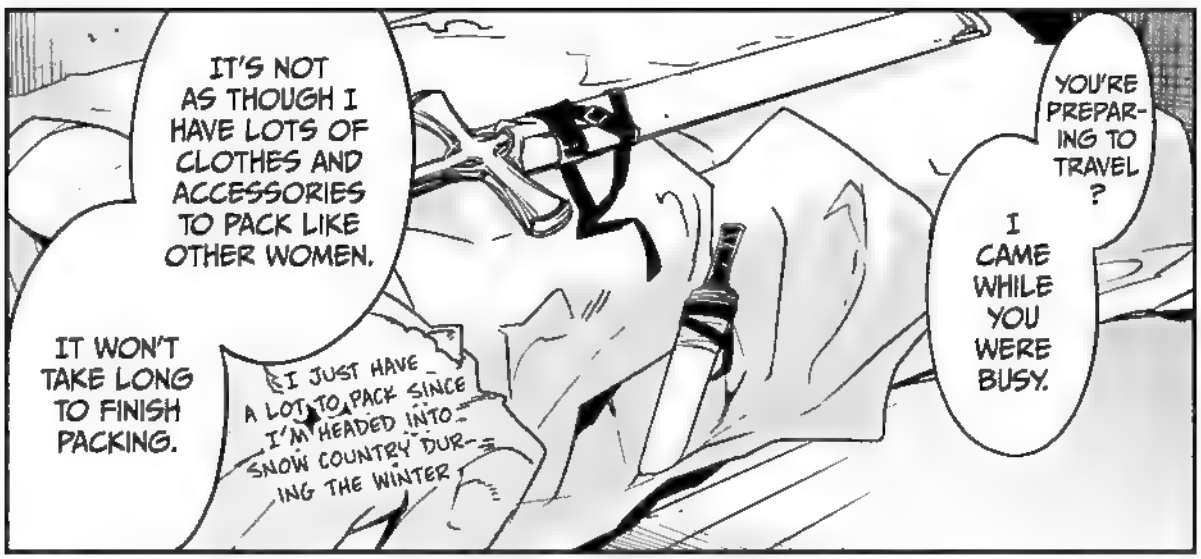
DEMON GIRL'S THOUGHTS

BAR-TEND-ER.
HUH?
....
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
WHAT?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, BUT...
WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN SOMETHING ISN'T ABOUT WINNING OR LOSING?
WHERE CAN ONE OBTAIN THAT KIND OF THING?
I SEE.
THIS PLACE IS LIKE THAT TOO.
THAT'S WHY THIS PLACE IS MY CASTLE.
I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A BAR-TENDER.
I USED MY PAY FROM THE EXPEDITION-ARY FORCE TO OPEN THIS PLACE.

I CAN'T GET TO THE DOOR RIGHT NOW!
IT'S OPEN!
KNOCK
KNOCK
おおお
RAA
ARGH
JUST LET ME PACK YOU!
SQUEEZE
ギュ
BANG
ドカ
COME ON, YOU STUPID BAGS!

Oh.
I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS YOU, SCHOLAR.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A MONK.

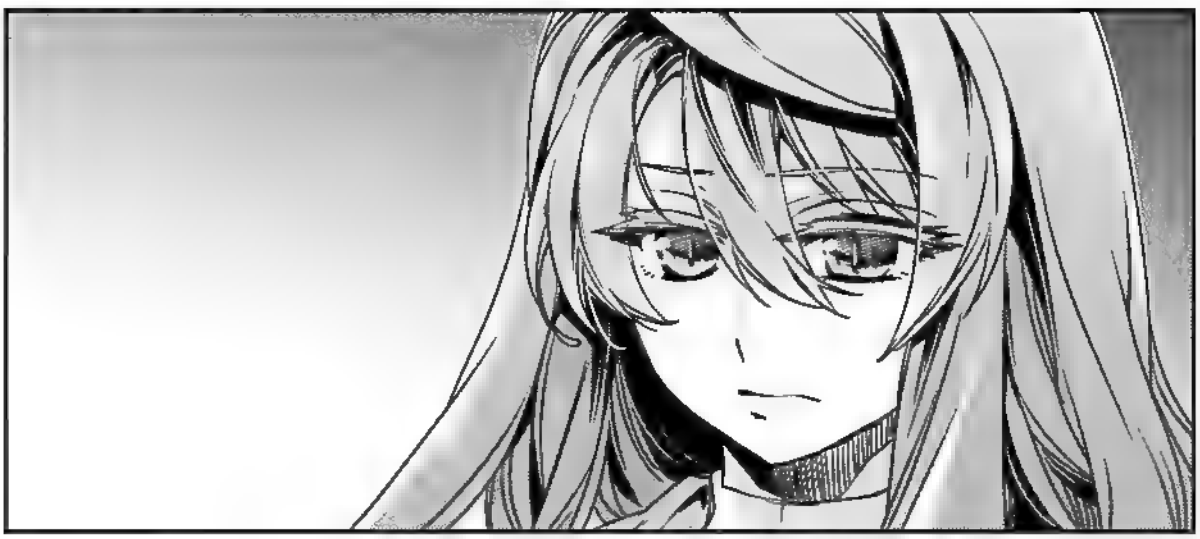
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU AT NIGHT.
ARE YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING?
MAOYU
Archenemy and Hero
CHAPTER 8


YOU'RE PREPARING TO TRAVEL?
I CAME WHILE YOU WERE BUSY.
IT'S NOT AS THOUGH I HAVE LOTS OF CLOTHES AND ACCESSORIES TO PACK LIKE OTHER WOMEN.
I JUST HAVE A LOT TO PACK SINCE I'M HEADED INTO SNOW COUNTRY DURING THE WINTER
IT WON'T TAKE LONG TO FINISH PACKING.

YES.
I HAVE BEEN CALLED UPON TO FIGHT. I'LL HAVE MYSELF A LITTLE RAMPAGE.
YOU'RE GOING TO FIGHT.
I'VE ALREADY HANDED OVER MY DUTIES HERE TO SOME-ONE ELSE, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY.

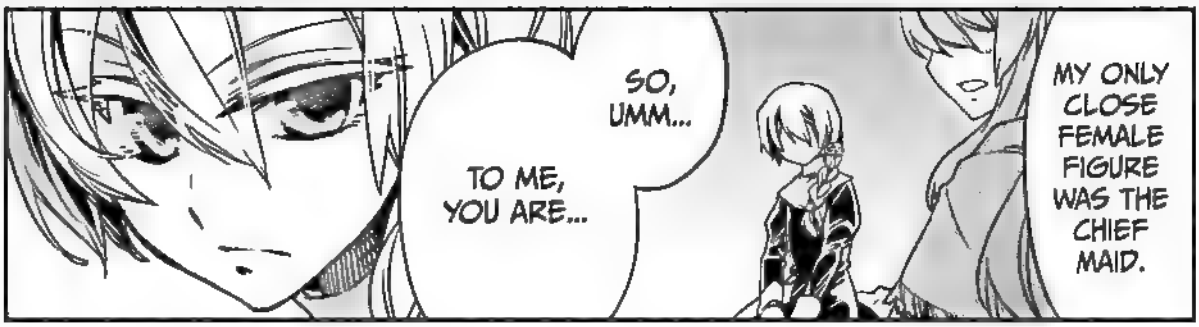
CHAPTER 8 Archenemy and Hero

The Second Landing Operation to Recover Aurora Island Begins!

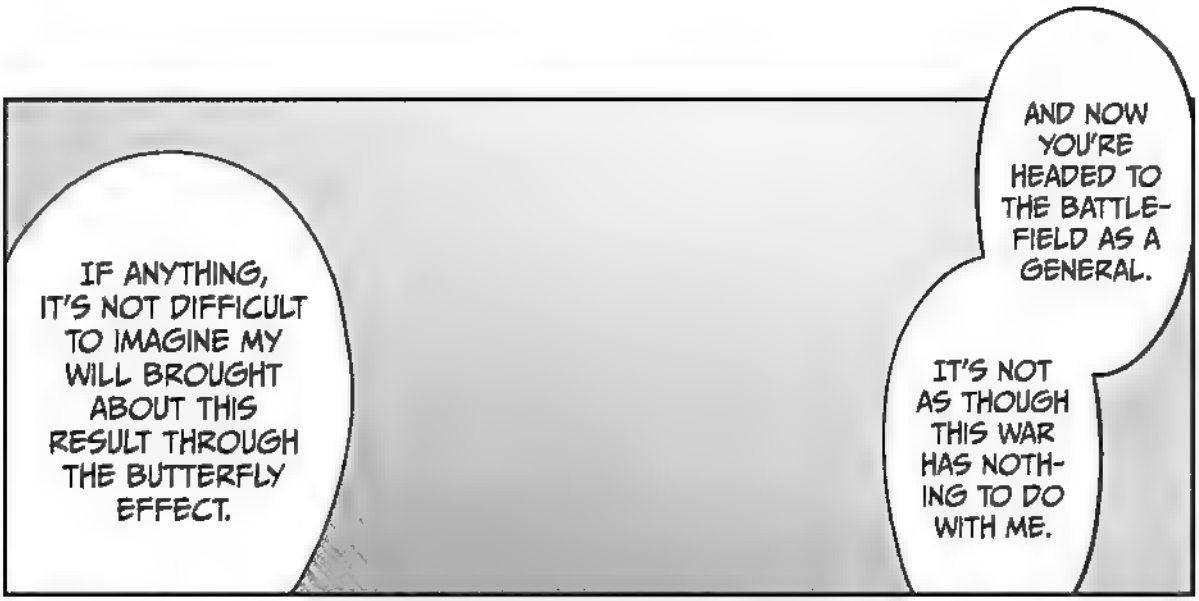


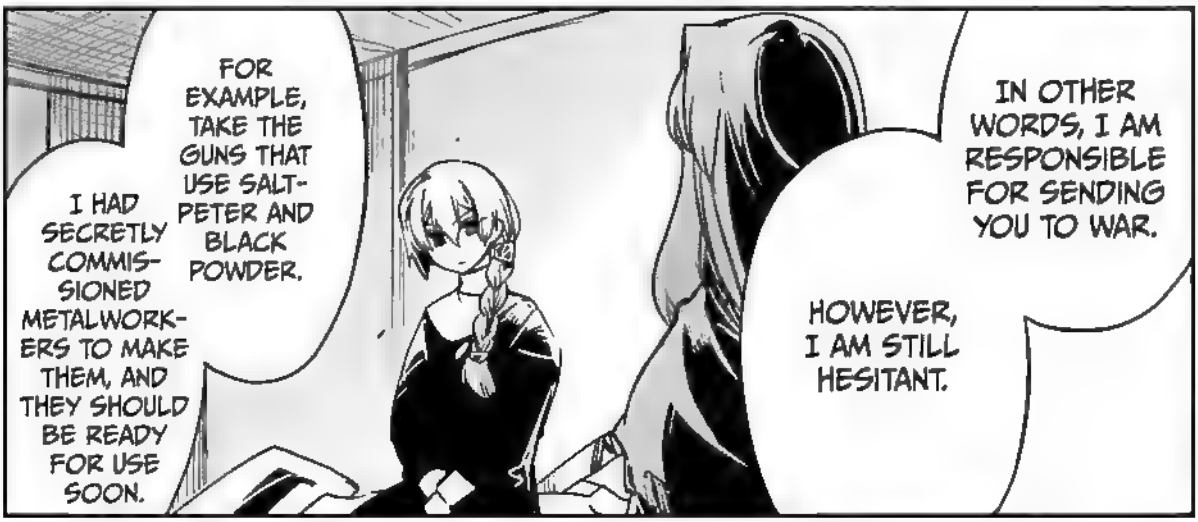
UMM...
THANK YOU FOR COMPLY-ING WITH MY SELFISH DEMANDS OVER THE PAST YEAR.
I'VE TRAINED HARD ENOUGH THAT MOST DEMONS CAN'T KILL ME.
EVEN IF MY BOAT SINKS, I'LL SWIM BACK HOME!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
YOU MEAN THE POTATOES? THE FOUR FIELD CROP ROTA-TIONS?
I SHOULD WE GRATE-FUL TO YOU FOR THOSE.
OR DO YOU MEAN TRAINING THE SONS FOR WAR?
IT HELPS ME RELIEVE STRESS.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SAY ANYTHING IN RESPONSE?
YOU'RE BEING AWFULLY MEEK.
URGH.
BESIDES, IT'S GOOD EXERCISE.
IF I DON'T BURN OFF ENOUGH CALORIES, I'LL GET FLABBY.

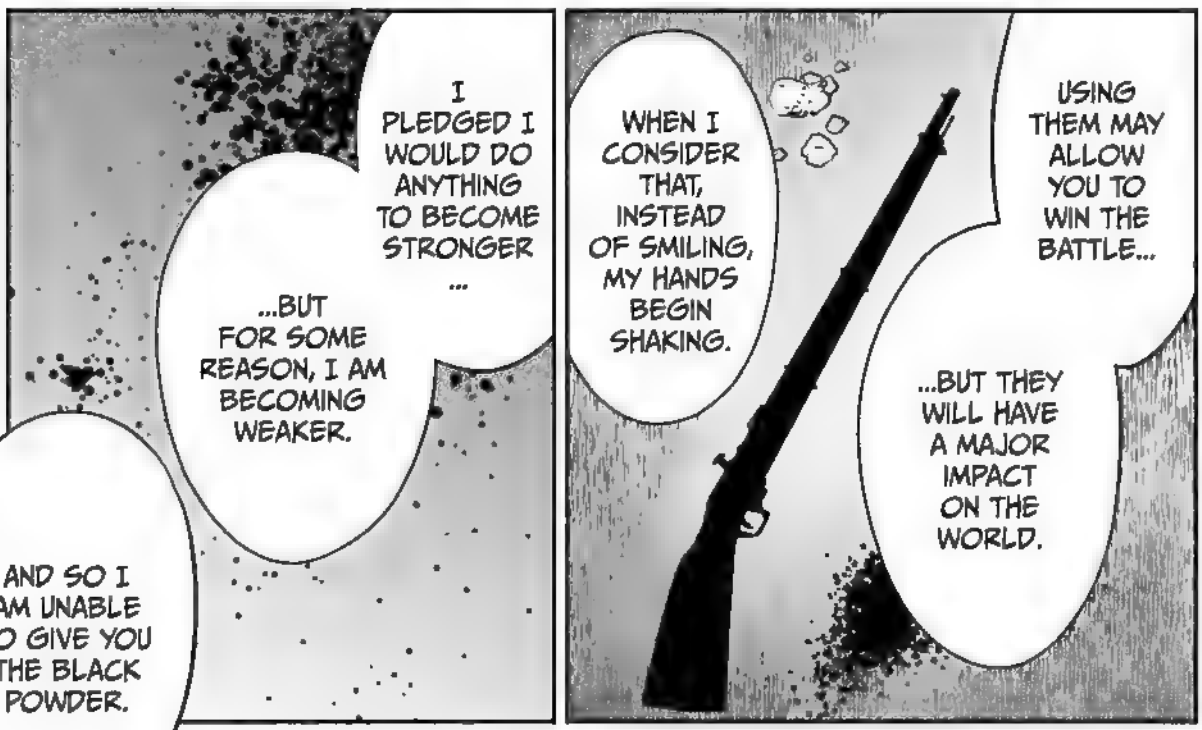
I, UMM...
SINCE I WAS A CHILD, I WAS RAISED INSIDE.
MY HOME WAS NOT SMALL, BUT I WAS ALWAYS... ALONE.


MY ONLY CLOSE FEMALE FIGURE WAS THE CHIEF MAID.
SO, UMM...
TO ME, YOU ARE...

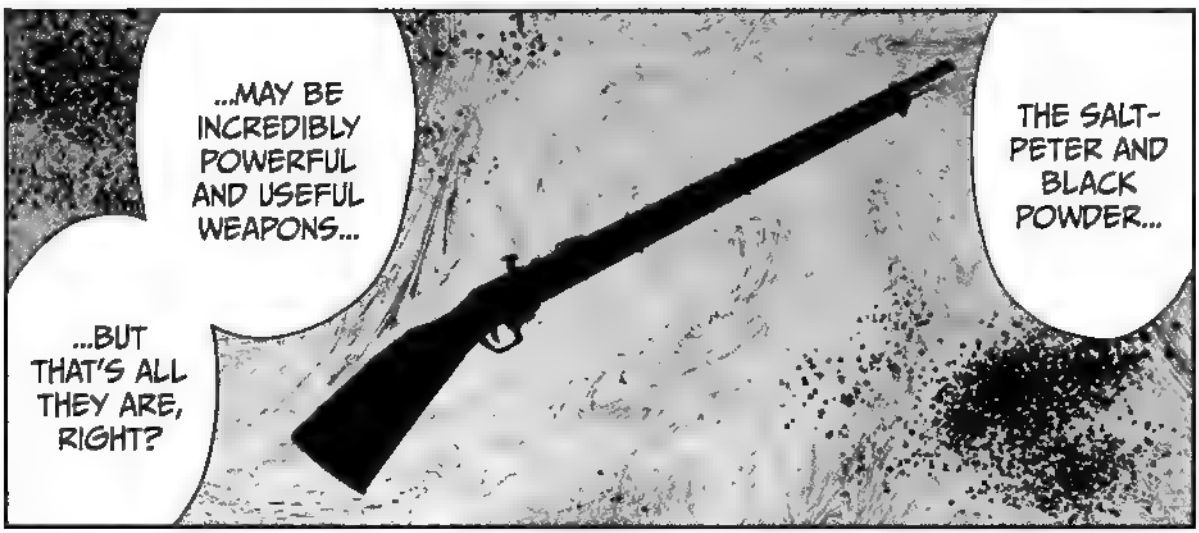
...MOST LIKE A FRIEND TO ME.
I CAME TO THIS CONCLUSION THE OTHER DAY.


AND NOW YOU'RE HEADED TO THE BATTLE-FIELD AS A GENERAL.
IT'S NOT AS THOUGH THIS WAR HAS NOTH-ING TO DO WITH ME.
IF ANYTHING, IT'S NOT DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE MY WILL BROUGHT ABOUT THIS RESULT THROUGH THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT.


IN OTHER WORDS, I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR SENDING YOU TO WAR.
HOWEVER, I AM STILL HESITANT.
FOR EXAMPLE, TAKE THE GUNS THAT USE SALT-PETER AND BLACK POWDER.
I HAD SECRETLY COMMIS-SIONED METALWORK-ERS TO MAKE THEM, AND THEY SHOULD BE READY FOR USE SOON.


USING THEM MAY ALLOW YOU TO WIN THE BATTLE...
...BUT THEY WILL HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON THE WORLD.
WHEN I CONSIDER THAT, INSTEAD OF SMILING, MY HANDS BEGIN SHAKING.
I PLEDGED I WOULD DO ANYTHING TO BECOME STRONGER ...
...BUT FOR SOME REASON, I AM BECOMING WEAKER.
AND SO I AM UNABLE TO GIVE YOU THE BLACK POWDER.

I BELIEVE IT IS A TERRIBLE BETRAYAL OF...
...MY FRIEND...
...WHO IS HEADING INTO A BATTLE-FIELD.
SO, BASI-CALLY...


THE SALT-PETER AND BLACK POWDER...
...MAY BE INCREDIBLY POWERFUL AND USEFUL WEAPONS...
...BUT THAT'S ALL THEY ARE, RIGHT?

YES.
IN THAT CASE, IT'S FINE!
I WON'T LOSE WITHOUT THEM.
THAT'S NOT ALL. I...
...HAVE BEEN LYING TO YOU.

I HAVE BEEN LYING TO EVERY-ONE.
THAT'S WHY I CAME HERE TONIGHT.
FEMALE KNIGHT, I AM...
...THE DEMON QUEEN.

YOU KNOW I FOLLOW THE SPIRITS OF LIGHT, DON'T YOU?
OF COURSE.
THEN AS A FOLLOWER OF THE HOLY SPIRITS OF LIGHT...
...AND PRIORESS OF THE LAKESIDE CONVENT, I WILL HEAR YOUR CONFESSION.
WHAT?
YOU LIED TO YOUR FRIENDS, AND YOU CONFESSED THIS LIE TO YOUR FRIEND AND THE SPIRITS.
YOUR SINS HAVE BEEN WASHED CLEAN. THERE IS NO PROBLEM.
EVEN THOUGH I'M THE DEMON QUEEN?

THEN THIS MATTER HAS CONCLUDED.
THERE IS NO PROBLEM.
SHAKE
SHAKE
YOU CONFESSED TO LYING, DID YOU NOT?
DO YOU FEEL GUILTY FOR BEING THE DEMON QUEEN?
NOT WITH BOTH HANDS!
WAIT!
FRANKLY
OH, RIGHT.
SHE'S ACTUALLY THE DEMON QUEEN TOO.
TRAIN THE KIDS FOR ME
I HAVE TO GO TO THE SPIRIT WORLD AGAIN.
THERE IS NO PROBLEM AT ALL.
I HOPE YOU'LL BE GOOD TO HER.
SHE'S THE DEMON QUEEN, BUT SHE'S NOT A BAD PERSON.

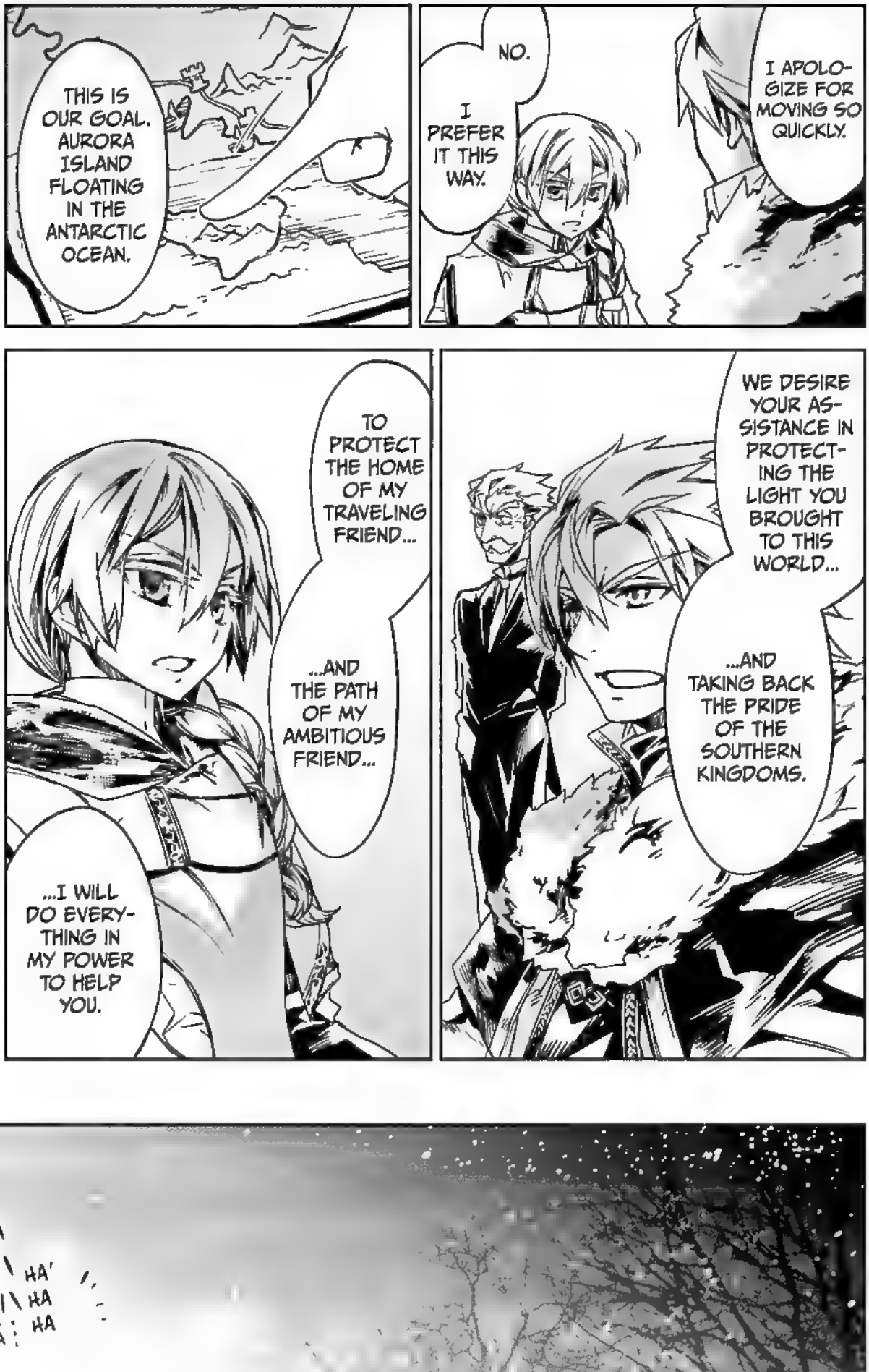
FEMALE KNIGHT.
IF I AM YOUR FRIEND, I WISH YOU WOULDN'T SPEAK SO FORMALLY WITH ME.
THE HERO FORMED A CONTRACT WITH YOU.
THERE MAY BE A SPECIAL BOND BETWEEN YOU AND THE HERO.
IT DOES FRUSTRATE ME, BUT I MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THAT.
HOWEVER...
SQUEEZE
...THERE IS MORE THAN ONE BOND. THE HERO TRUSTS ME.
KLINK
THAT IS MY TREASURE.
I WILL NOT BETRAY THE HERO EITHER.

I WON'T INJURE A SINGLE HAIR ON MY HEAD IN THIS BATTLE.
SO DON'T WORRY.
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LOSING ...
...OR STEP-PING DOWN YET!
KLICK
SECOND LANDING OPERATION TO RECOVER AURORA ISLAND TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS
STEP
STEP
STEP

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED, OLD MAN.
HEH HEH.
OH.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
!
KLICK
I'M SORRY. I HOPE YOU WEREN'T WAITING...
YES
SHE'S IN THE DRAWING ROOM
SHE'S ALREADY HERE?
STEP
I'LL KILL YOU.
IT SEEMS THE SIZE OF YOUR BREASTS HASN'T CHANGED, EITHER.
HEH HEH HEH.
DODGE
STOP YOUR MONSTROUS MOVEMENTS!
CLASH!

THAT WAS A QUICK CHANGE OF ATTITUDE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THESE ARE NEW LEAVES FROM THE REED KINGDOM.
POUR
コポポポ…
I'M SORRY ONE OF MY KINGDOM'S SUBJECTS TROUBLED YOU.
PLEASE DISCIPLINE HIM.
SIR!
HE WAS LIKE THIS FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE END.
HAS THE OLD MAN ALWAYS BEEN THIS WAY?
I AM THE FEMALE KNIGHT OF THE LAKE KINGDOM.
I HAVE RESPONDED TO YOUR SUMMONS.
I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF YET.
I'M THE LONELY WINTER KING OF THE WINTER KINGDOM.

PLEASE SIT UP. YOU'RE THE KING OF A NATION.
WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS HOW GRATEFUL I AM THAT YOU CAME.
OLD MAN, THE MAP.
YES, SIR.
AHEM
BECAUSE OF THAT, THE OLD MAN HESITATED TO CONTACT YOU.
THERE IS A GREAT DEBT WE MUST REPAY TO YOU.
I OVERSAW ITS PRODUCTION PERSONALLY.
NO WONDER IT SMELLS LIKE AN OLD MAN.
WHAT?
THIS IS A MAP OF THE AREA.
IT'S QUITE ACCURATE.


THIS IS OUR GOAL. AURORA ISLAND FLOATING IN THE ANTARCTIC OCEAN.
NO. I PREFER IT THIS WAY.
I APOLOGIZE FOR MOVING SO QUICKLY.
TO PROTECT THE HOME OF MY TRAVELING FRIEND...
...AND THE PATH OF MY AMBITIOUS FRIEND...
...I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO HELP YOU.
WE DESIRE YOUR ASSISTANCE IN PROTECTING THE LIGHT YOU BROUGHT TO THIS WORLD...
...AND TAKING BACK THE PRIDE OF THE SOUTHERN KINGDOMS.
HA HA HA HA HA HA

おお
WOW
ドサ
WUMPH
THIS IS MY SPECIAL BACON!
EVEN THOUGH I MADE ALL THIS BACON, I ACTUALLY HAVE THREE TIMES AS MANY PIGS AS LAST YEAR.
THAT'S AMAZING.
IT MUST BE THE TURNIPS.
WE CAN HAVE ALL OF THIS?
I'M GOING TO BOIL AND FRY IT.
YEAH, GO AHEAD.
THIS YEAR'S END OF YEAR FESTIVAL WILL BE LIVELY.
YEAH.
THIS MAY BE THE MOST PLENTIFUL WINTER WE'VE HAD.
キャ
AAAH
あはは
HA HA HA HA HA

HEY, YOU!
THE FESTIVAL WOULD BE PERFECT IF THOSE TWO GIRLS WOULD SHOW UP.
THEY'RE LOVELY.
TWITCH
LET'S GO HELP CLEAR SOME SNOW
IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE THE SCHOLAR ARRIVED.
THE SCHOLAR'S DONE SO MUCH FOR US.
WHAT?
COME HERE.
おはは HA HA HA HA HA
おはは HA HA HA HA
GURGLE
THE FESTIVAL HASN'T STARTED YET, AND YOU'RE ALREADY DRINKING?
COME OVER HERE AND HELP PREPARE!
HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA

I FINISHED ORGANIZING THE DOCUMENTS.
KLICK
I SUMMARIZED THE MAIN POINTS. I'D APPRECIATE IF YOU COULD CHECK OVER THEM.
GOOD WORK.
SLAM
FOOD IS READY.
MISTRESS, TRY IT!
THIS IS GOOD.
I HOPE EVERYONE AT THE END OF YEAR FESTIVAL LIKES IT.
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THEIR COOKING TOO.
DROOL
ARE YOU THAT EXCITED FOR IT?
OH, RIGHT.
YOU GUYS DON'T KNOW SINCE YOU MOVED HERE.
IS IT A LIVELY FESTIVAL?
I WOULDN'T CALL IT LIVELY.

THE WINTERS ARE HARSH IN THIS REGION, AND YOU CAN HARDLY GO OUTSIDE FOR ALMOST FOUR MONTHS.
THE ONLY THING TO DO DURING THE LONG WINTERS IS TAKE CARE OF LIVE-STOCK.
ASIDE FROM THAT, WE SIT AROUND FIRES INSIDE SNOW-COVERED HOMES AND WAIT FOR SPRING.
THE GREATEST JOY OF THE LONG WINTER IS THE END OF YEAR FESTIVAL.
PEOPLE COOK FOOD AND EXCHANGE PRESENTS.
DURING THIS TIME, EVEN SERFS CAN BEHAVE WITHOUT DISCRIMINA-TION.
THE PEOPLE OF THIS KINGDOM WHO ENDURE THESE LONG WINTERS...
...LOOK FORWARD TO THE END OF YEAR FESTIVAL MORE THAN ANYTHING.
I SEE. IT'S AN IMPORTANT DAY.
IT SLIPPED OUR MINDS.
OKAY
SISTER
?

WHAT?

TA-DA!
WE HAVE END OF YEAR FESTIVAL PRESENTS FOR YOU!

IT'S A HERO RAG DOLL!
あはははは
HA HA HA HA
IT LOOKS JUST LIKE HIM.

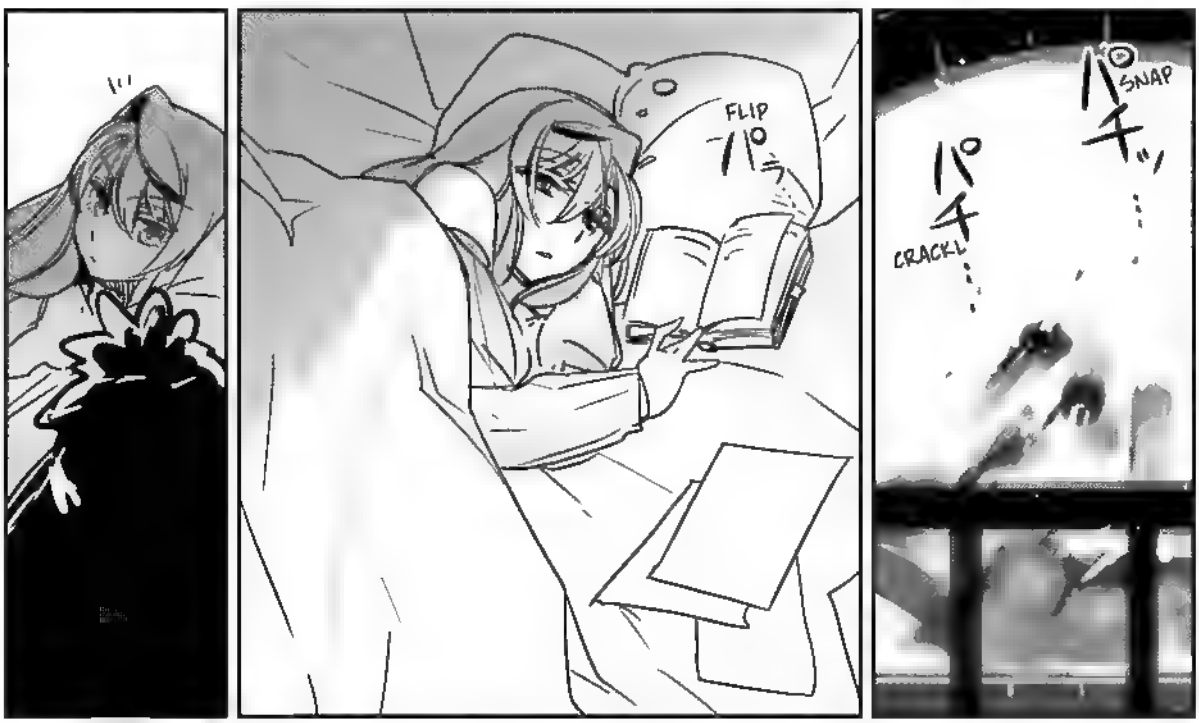
I GOT YOU LILY OF THE VALLEY PERFUME.
I MADE IT FROM FLOWERS I GATHERED IN EARLY FALL.
SNIFF
スン…
I SEE.
I'M DE-LIGHTED. THANK YOU.

WHAT? FOR ME?
THIS IS FOR YOU!
WE MADE IT TOGETHER!
IS THE NEEDLEWORK IRREGULAR?
ABSOLUTELY NOT! BUT...
IT'S EMBROIDERED WITH THE LILY OF THE VALLEY.
WE'RE MATCHING.
I'M SORRY WE DIDN'T GET YOU ANY PRESENTS.
I HAD COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE FESTIVAL.

THAT'S OKAY.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT US.
BUT...
TIE
GIRLS.
YOU ALLOW US TO WORK IN YOUR KIND AND WARM MANSION.
I FEEL AS THOUGH I'M RECEIVING A PRESENT EVERY DAY.
WE'RE REALLY HAPPY.

THESE GIFTS ARE AN EXPRESSION OF OUR FEELINGS.
THANK YOU...
...AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!
IT'S THE NEW YEAR!
A NEW YEAR IS START-ING.
HAPPY NEW YEAR?
HAPPY NEW YEAR.
I LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTH-ER YEAR WITH YOU TWO.
YES!
MAY THIS YEAR BE ANOTHER GOOD YEAR.

ENJOY YOUR-SELVES.
SEE YOU LAT-ER.
WE'LL BRING BACK LOTS OF GIFTS.
YES.
I'M GOING TO REST.
ARE YOU SURE IT'S ALL RIGHT FOR ME TO GO TO THE FESTIVAL?
SAY HELLO TO EVERY-ONE FOR ME


FLIP
SNAP
CRACK

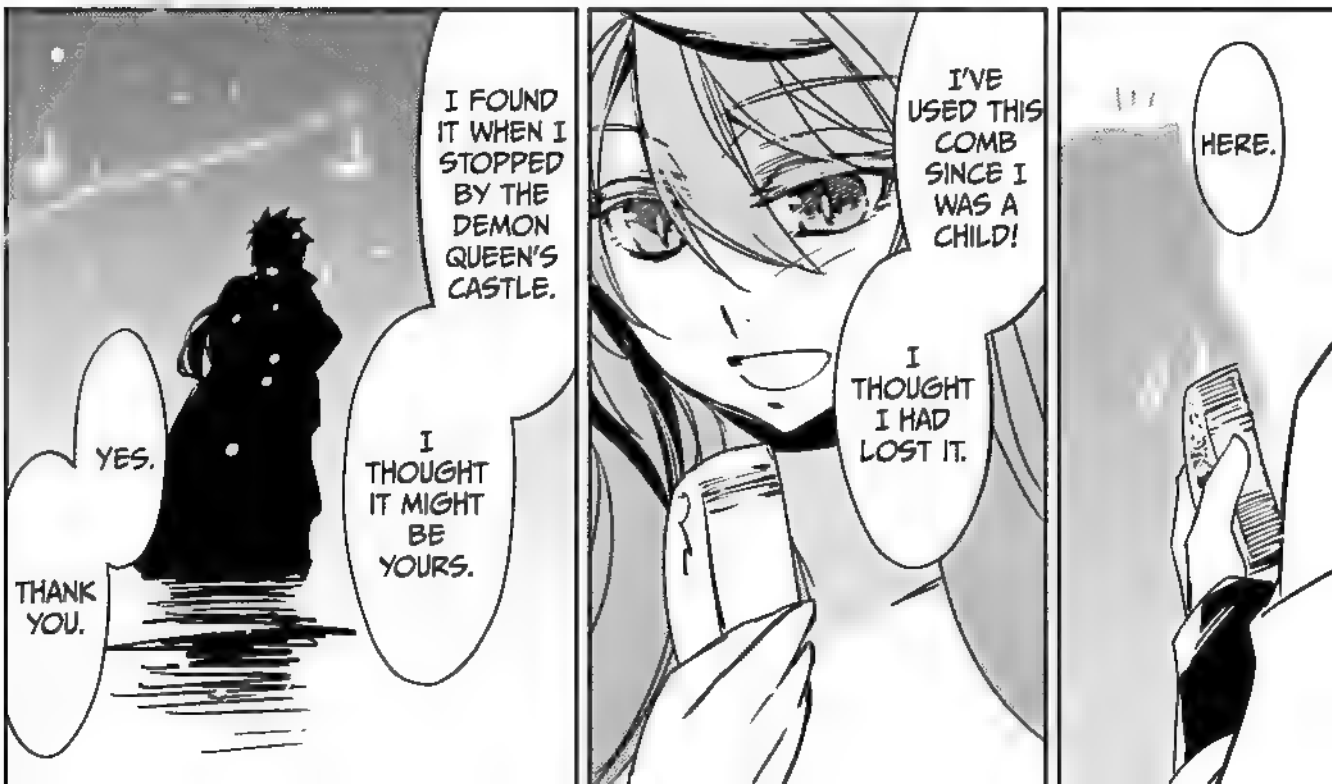
...EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE MINE.
I HAVEN'T TOUCHED YOU IN A YEAR...
ONE YEAR.
HERO.

HERO.
I HAVE BECOME WEAK.
I AM AFRAID TO CHANGE THE WORLD.
I HAD NO IDEA WAR WAS SO TERRIFYING.
I DID NOT HESITATE TO SPILL BLOOD BEFORE...
...BUT NOW I AM TERRIFIED OF THE FLOWING BLOOD.
IT'S AS THOUGH THE STENCH OF IRON, SLIMINESS, AND HEAT I COULDN'T FEEL IN THE SEA OF INFORMATION...
...IS SOAKING MY ENTIRE BODY...
...WITH THE WEIGHT OF GUILT.
BUT I'M STILL DOING MY BEST...
...HERO.
I WISH...
...YOU WOULD PRAISE ME.
SURE.
GOOD JOB, DEMON QUEEN.

HERO!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
HEY.
RUMBLE
I'M NOT DONE YET!
SOR-RY!
RUMBLE
I'M SOR-RY!
OW!
OW!
STOP ...
POW
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN WAN-DERING AROUND?
YOU IDIOT!
WHACK
RAAAGH!
SHRIEK
AARGH!
WELL, YOU'VE GOTTEN FLAB-BIER!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
THAT'S
I HAD MY OWN TROUBLES, YOU KNOW!
FLAB-BIER? HOW DARE YOU!
YOU SAY THAT, BUT YOU WERE ACTUALLY FLIRTING WITH HORDES OF WOMEN, WEREN'T YOU?
YAAAH

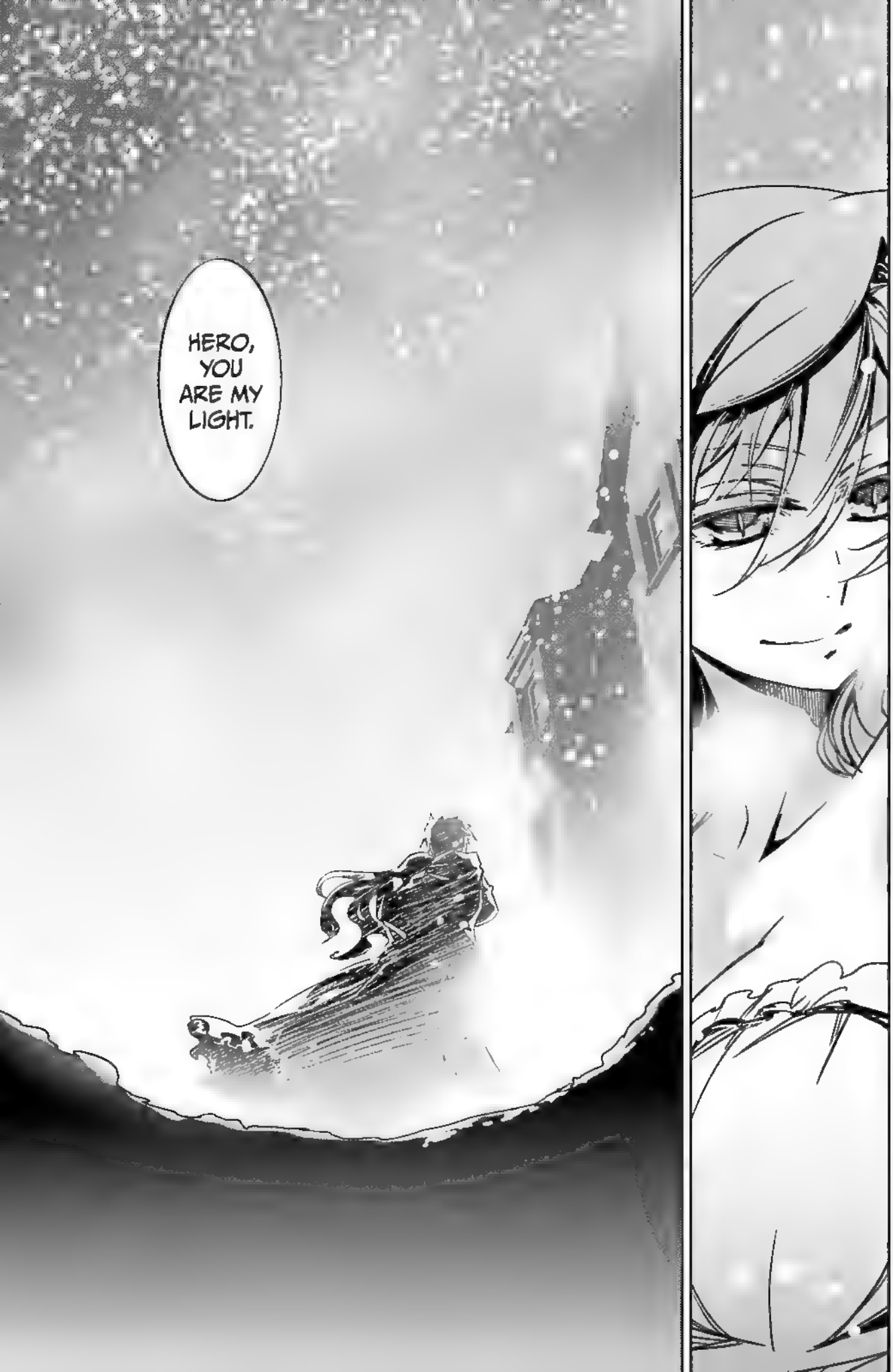
LET'S STOP THIS.
YES.
WHAT IS THIS SONG?
IT'S MUSIC FROM THE END OF YEAR FESTIVAL.
THE MAIDS WENT.
REALLY?
DO YOU WANT TO GO TO THE FESTIVAL?
NO. I WANT TO STAY HERE.
?
OKAY, THEN.
WHY DON'T WE GO OUT TO THE COURTYARD?

AREN'T YOU COLD?
I'M FINE.
YOU'RE WARM.
IS... IS THIS RIGHT?
THRUST YOUR CHEST OUT MORE.
THAT'S IT.


I FOUND IT WHEN I STOPPED BY THE DEMON QUEEN'S CASTLE.
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE YOURS.
YES.
THANK YOU.
I'VE USED THIS COMB SINCE I WAS A CHILD!
I THOUGHT I HAD LOST IT.
HERE.

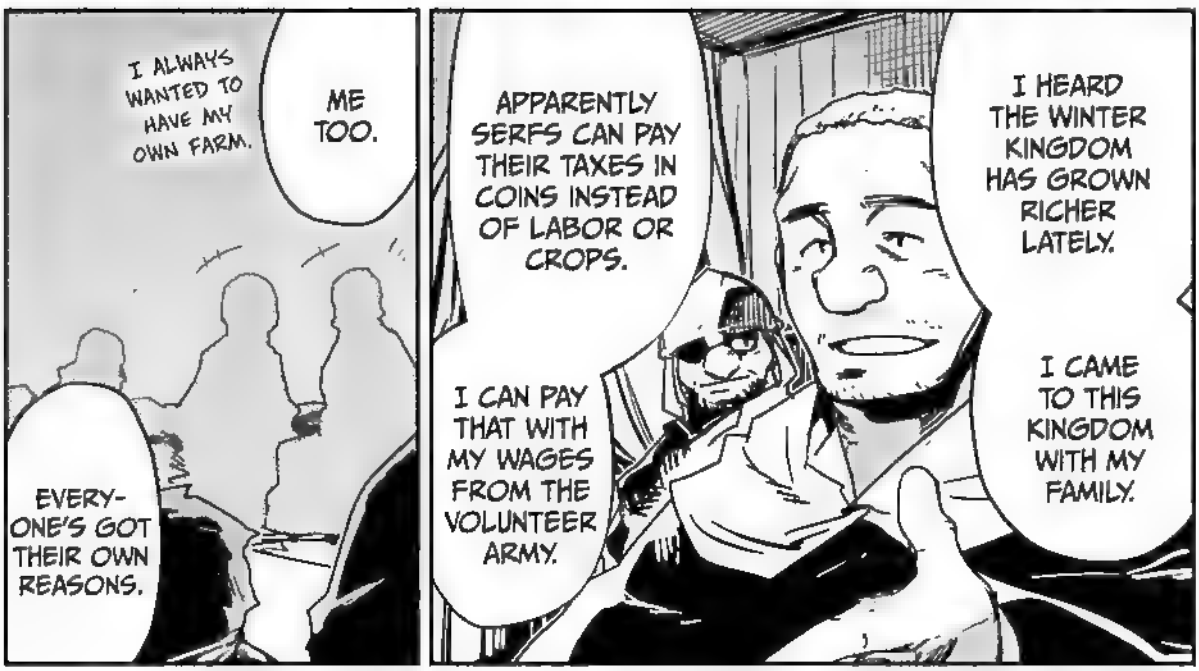
I DON'T ...
...HAVE A PRES-ENT.
I DIDN'T GET ONE FOR YOU.
SORRY IT'S SO CHEAP, BUT THAT'S MY END OF YEAR FESTIVAL GIFT TO YOU.
OF COURSE.
YOU'RE MINE, RIGHT?
ARE YOU LEAVING RIGHT AWAY?
YEAH, SORRY.
I CAME BACK TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT.
THAT'S PLENTY.

NOW THAT I'VE SPOKEN TO YOU, I KNOW WHAT TO DO.
I'LL CAPTURE GATEWAY CITY IN LESS THAN A MONTH.
I'M STARTING TO SEE CLEARLY TOO...
...SINCE I GOT TO SEE YOU.
THE NEXT TIME WE MEET WILL BE ON THE BATTLE-FIELD...
...HERO.
DON'T WORRY.
I AM YOUR SWORD, DEMON QUEEN.

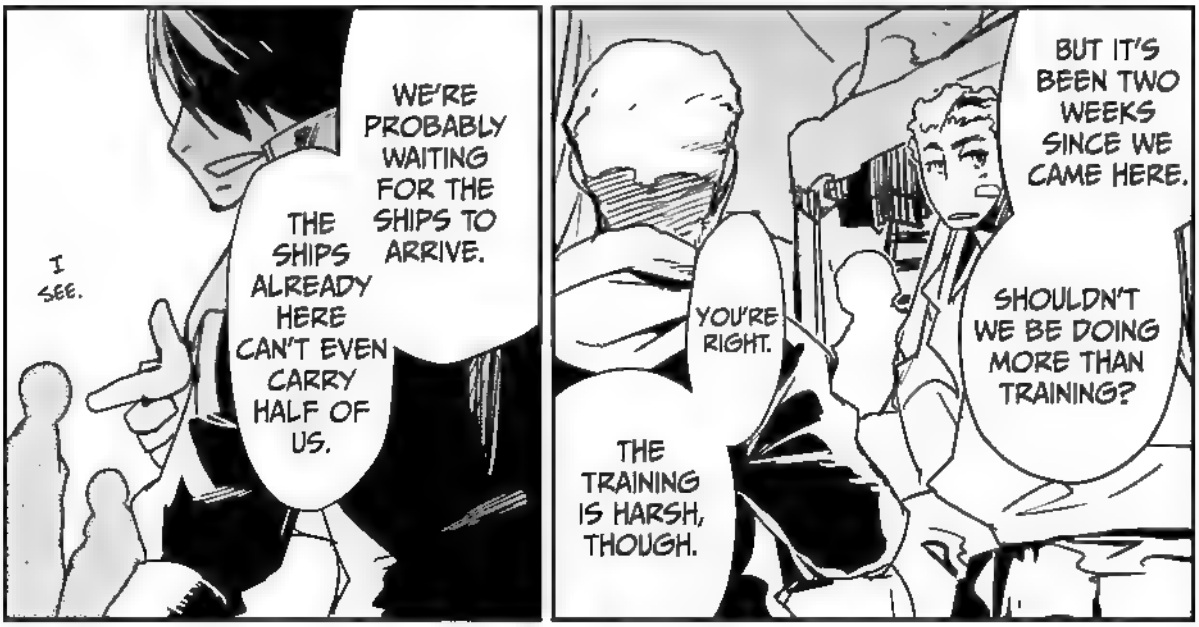

HERO, YOU ARE MY LIGHT.

SECOND LANDING OPERATION TO RECOVER AURORA ISLAND WINTER KINGDOM CAMP GROUND
CHATTER
CHATTER
HA HA HA

THAT'S WHY I JOINED THE VOLUNTEER ARMY.
I HEARD THE SPEAR-WIELDING KING'S DESCENDANT AND YOUNG HERO OF THE WINTER KINGDOM WAS FORMING AN army.
AND IT'S BEING LED BY THE YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL FEMALE KNIGHT!
SHE'S ONE OF THE LEGENDARY HEROES WHO FOUGHT ALONGSIDE THE HERO!
MY BLOOD IS ON FIRE!


I HEARD THE WINTER KINGDOM HAS GROWN RICHER LATELY.
I CAME TO THIS KINGDOM WITH MY FAMILY.
APPARENTLY SERFS CAN PAY THEIR TAXES IN COINS INSTEAD OF LABOR OR CROPS.
I CAN PAY THAT WITH MY WAGES FROM THE VOLUNTEER ARMY.
ME TOO.
I ALWAYS WANTED TO HAVE MY OWN FARM.
EVERYONE'S GOT THEIR OWN REASONS.

THE POTATOES, RIGHT? THEY WERE SO GOOD THE FIRST TIME I HAD THEM.
YEAH, IT'S THOSE.
HA HA HA HA!
THE FRIED ONES WERE GOOD
I'VE ALWAYS LIVED IN THIS KINGDOM...
...BUT THIS YEAR'S END OF YEAR FESTIVAL WAS ESPECIALLY GRAND.
REALLY?
WOW.
LATELY THE LIVING CONDITIONS...
...IN THIS KINGDOM HAVE BEEN IMPROVING.


I SEE.
THE SHIPS ALREADY HERE CAN'T EVEN CARRY HALF OF US.
WE'RE PROBABLY WAITING FOR THE SHIPS TO ARRIVE.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
THE TRAINING IS HARSH, THOUGH.
BUT IT'S BEEN TWO WEEKS SINCE WE CAME HERE.
SHOULDN'T WE BE DOING MORE THAN TRAINING?

WE'RE ALMOST THERE. IT SHOULD BE ABOUT TWO WEEKS AFTER THE NEW YEAR BEGINS.
HOW IS THAT COMING ALONG?

I'M SURE THE HIGHER UPS HAVE A PLAN.
I'M PUTTING OUT THE LIGHTS
I WONDER WHEN IT'S GOING TO BE?

I'VE FISHED IN THIS OCEAN FOR YEARS.
IT WILL COME AGAIN THIS YEAR.
STEP
STEP
YES, SIR.
LET ME KNOW IF YOU SEE ANY MOVE-MENT.
KEEP SURVEYING THE AREA.
STEP
WHY, IF IT ISN'T THE LONELY WINTER KING.
WE WERE JUST DISCUSSING THAT.
!
RUSTLE
FEMALE KNIGHT, ABOUT THE SUPPLIES ...

MER-
CHANT.
I WASN'T EXPECT-
ING YOU TO COME.
YOU HEARD HIM.
TWO THOUSAND SETS OF COLD WEATHER CLOTHING AND A WEEK'S WORTH OF EMERGENCY FOOD STORES.
AS YOU REQUEST-
ED, THEY HAVE BEEN DE-
LIVERED.
YES.
IT IS A MAJOR TRANSAC-
TION...
...BUT I ALSO CAME TO APOLOGIZE FOR ANOTHER MATTER.

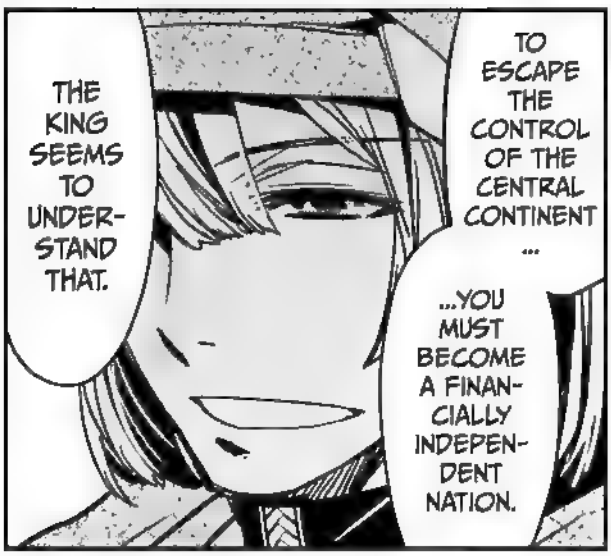
YES.
SINCE THE DEMONS TOOK CONTROL OF THE PRODUCTION AREA OF AURORA ISLAND, THE AMOUNT IN CIRCULATION HAS FALLEN SIGNIFICANTLY.
YOU MEAN...
BUT...
WHAT SHALL WE DO, YOUR MAJESTY?
SHOULD WE RE-VISE OUR STRAT-EGY?
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
I KNEW FROM THE BEGINNING I WAS ASKING FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE.
WE HAVE GATHERED ALL WE CAN, BUT IT'S NOWHERE NEAR THE AMOUNT YOU REQUESTED.
THE SCHOL-AR!
YOU HAVE A GUEST.
SHE CALLS HER-SELF THE CRIMSON SCHOLAR.
SHE'S WITH A CARAVAN OF WAG-ONS.
EXCUSE ME!

STEP
MUMBLE
IT'S BETTER NOT TO THINK OF HER AS A SCHOLAR.
YES, SIR!
I'VE BEEN WANTING TO MEET HER
IS IT THE GENIUS SCHOLAR I'VE HEARD ABOUT?
LET HER THROUGH.
I AM THE CRIMSON SCHOLAR.
IT IS A PLEA-SURE TO MEET YOU.
I HAVE BROUGHT YOU A GIFT.

I'M JUST A YOUNG MAN WHO RECENTLY ASCENDED TO THE THRONE.
NO. WORD OF YOUR COMPETENCE AS KING HAS REACHED EVEN OVERWINTER VILLAGE.
IT IS AN HONOR TO MEET YOU.
I AM THE LONELY WINTER KING OF THE WINTER KINGDOM.
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TEA?
KLINK
THANK YOU.
Mer..
COFF
MERCHANT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
IT'S A COINCI-DENCE.
SPURT

I'VE HEARD YOU'VE DONE MUCH TO CHANGE AGRICULTURE IN THIS KINGDOM.
I KNEW I HAD TO MEET YOU EVENTUALLY...
...BUT THE UNREASONABLE DEMANDS KEEP PILING UP.
I COULDN'T EVEN SAY HELLO. I APOLOGIZE.
THAT'S VERY KIND OF YOU.
I APOLOGIZE FOR COMING WHEN YOU'RE SO BUSY.
BY THE WAY, KING...
...YOU INTEND TO WIN, DON'T YOU?
OF COURSE.
THE SOUTHERN KINGDOMS NEED TO TAKE BACK THAT ISLAND.

IF WE CAN TAKE BACK THE ISLAND, TRADE ROUTES SHOULD STABILIZE, AND WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO REGAIN SOME OF THOSE PROFITS.
CURRENTLY THE SOUTHERN KINGDOMS SIMPLY WAGE WAR AS INSTRUCTED BY THE CENTRAL CONTINENT AND CHURCH.
WE'RE NOTHING MORE THAN ERRAND BOYS.


THE KING SEEMS TO UNDER-STAND THAT.
TO ESCAPE THE CONTROL OF THE CENTRAL CONTINENT ...
...YOU MUST BECOME A FINAN-CIALLY INDEPEN-DENT NATION.

NO. IT IS SATIS-FAC-TORY.
YOU MAY DISPARAGE ME FOR SACRIFICING THE LIVES OF SOLDIERS FOR MONEY, BUT...

I BROUGHT YOU...
...SALT.
NO, IT'S SOME-THING ELSE.

BY THE WAY, DEMON... SCHOLAR, WHAT DID YOU BRING?
IS IT THE BLACK POWDER?
I TOLD YOU I COULD WIN WITH-OUT...

NATU-
RALLY
I DON'T
GIVE
ANYONE
INFOR-
MATION
ABOUT MY
CLIENTS.
SNICKER
HOW-
EVER...
...THIS IS
JUST THE
SORT OF
PERSON
THE
SCHOLAR
IS.
I DIDN'T
SAY ANY-
THING.
FEMALE
KNIGHT!
MER-
CHANT!
I
THOUGHT
IT WOULD
BE USE-
FUL.
I BROUGHT
SIX WAGONS
WORTH OF
SALT.
WHAT AN
INCREDIBLE
PERSON.
I HAVE
MY OWN
ROUTES.
I'M
AMAZED
YOU WERE
ABLE TO
ACQUIRE
SO MUCH.

A POSITION? WELL...
IT WOULD BE CONVENIENT TO HAVE A TITLE THAT WOULD ALLOW ME TO VISIT THE CASTLE.
A REWARD? A POSITION AT THE PALACE?
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM THIS BATTLE? WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR YOUR SALT?
...LIKE SOME OF YOUR TIME.
I WOULD ALSO...
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SURPRISE THEM!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
AT MOST, I WOULD REQUIRE ONE DAY AND ONE NIGHT.
TIME, WHICH IS MORE VALUABLE ON THE BATTLEFIELD THAN GOLD.
TO DO THAT, I WILL NEED TIME.
I INTEND TO HANDLE WHATEVER VICTORY CANNOT.
I HAVE NEVER DESIRED VICTORY.

IF THE SCHOLAR SAYS THERE ARE, THEN THERE MUST BE.
BUT WITH THE FEMALE KNIGHT ON YOUR SIDE, THERE ARE OTHER WAYS.
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
THIS WAY!
HURRY!
GENERAL!
ANTARCTIC GENERAL!

WHOOSH

?

THUD

WHAT IS IT?

THUD

YOU'LL HAVE TO SEE FOR YOURSELF!

STEP

STEP

WHOOSH

WHAT?

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

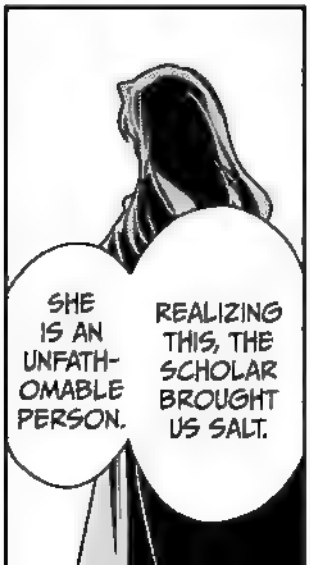
A BRIDGE OF ICE?

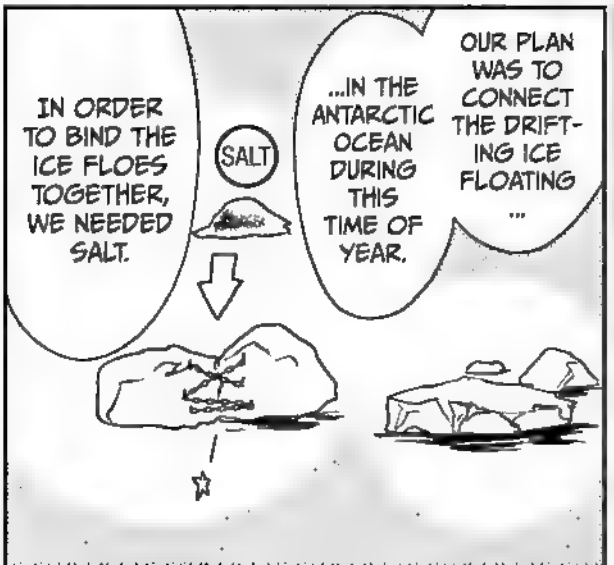
WHOOSH

?
THUD
WHAT IS IT?
THUD
YOU'LL HAVE TO SEE FOR YOUR-SELF!
STEP
STEP
WHOOSH
WHAT?
WHOOSH
A BRIDGE OF ICE?

WHOOSH
WHOOSH

WHOOSH


SHE IS AN UNFATH-OMABLE PERSON.
REALIZING THIS, THE SCHOLAR BROUGHT US SALT.


IN ORDER TO BIND THE ICE FLOES TOGETHER, WE NEEDED SALT.
SALT
...IN THE ANTARCTIC OCEAN DURING THIS TIME OF YEAR.
OUR PLAN WAS TO CONNECT THE DRIFT-ING ICE FLOATING ...

WE MADE IT IN TIME.
YES, SIR.

THE SECOND LANDING OPERATION TO RECOVER AURORA ISLAND WILL NOW BEGIN!
YAAAGH!
KLANG
HEAVY INFANTRY! BREAK THROUGH THE MIDDLE AND CONSTRUCT A BEACHHEAD ON THE COAST!
COMMANDER! ONCE YOU REACH THE ISLAND, TAKE A COMPANY AND OCCUPY THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS ON THE WESTERN COAST!
IT WILL SERVE AS OUR WATCH-TOWER FOR OBSERVATION AND AIR DEFENSE!
YES, MA'AM!
RUSTLE
CROSSBOWMEN! MOVE FORWARD AND WATCH THE SKIES AND WATER!
SHOULD A LARGE DEMON APPEAR, FIRE UPON IT WHILE RETREATING AND WAIT FOR REINFORCEMENTS!
YES, MA'AM!
KLICK
KA-KLICK

THERE IS NO NEED TO FIGHT WITH INDIVIDUAL STRENGTH!
ROTATE SOLDIERS! RELY ON YOUR ALLIES! OUR TRUST IS OUR STRENGTH!
THIS IS NOT A NAVAL BATTLE!
THIS IS A LAND BATTLE, OUR STRENGTH!
ROAR
SHOW THEM THE STRENGTH OF THE KINGDOMS' ARMY!
THE SURPRISE ATTACK IS SHELVED!
WE WILL WIN AS WE ARE MEANT TO WIN!
TAKE THE FIELD!
ROAR

THE END

CHAPTER 8_
The Second Landing Operation to Recover Aurora Island Begins!

WHY WARS OCCUR
Part 2

The fundamental reasons behind the causes for war and the reality of technological development through war.

SUPPOSE THERE ARE TWO CHILDREN IN A VILLAGE WHO MEET.
THEY ARE TWO SEPARATE ENTITIES. TWO DISTINCT ENTITIES MEET.
THAT CHILD IS NOT ME, AND I AM NOT THAT CHILD.
PART OF WHAT HAPPENS THERE IS CONFLICT.

Wars are the ultimate method of forceful conflict resolution between two people.

How can wars be prevented?

Previously we considered the causes from war from the perspective of the development of human society. Since the modern era, though conflicts between people and religions, differences in ideology, and securing resources are often given as causes of war, these reasons are superficial. A closer look reveals wars occur when parties try to resolve conflicts arise from differences in interests or opinions with violence. In *Maoyu*, the Demon Queen explains this concept using two children meeting as an example, but simply put, war is similar to this.

Therefore, the ultimate way to prevent war is to prevent the clashes of interests and conflicts of opinion that serve as the fundamental causes of war. However, this is impossible. Instead we must find a way to resolve problems without resorting to war.

The ambition of war leads to advances in technology

War is closely related to developments in human technology. Primitive weapons were similar to the bows and spears used for hunting. With the development of metal processing technology and bronze, weapons to be used as swords were born. Furthermore, the Hittites who quickly developed the technology to manufacture iron goods prospered, leading to the advent of the Iron Age.

In this manner, during ancient times, technological developments were directly connected to the supremacy of a group. In the modern era of national governments pouring all their resources into all out war, some governments devote money and labor to researching technologies with military applications.

For example, the airplanes essential to the transport of goods and travel experienced major progress during two major wars. The nuclear power currently used to generate electricity was also invented while developing weapons more powerful than gunpowder bombs.

The black powder invented in China was transmitted to Western Europe where cannons and guns were born. These dramatically altered the battlefield.

Because war is also a race between enemies to develop technology, many conveniences and tools were born from military technology.

Next year there will be readings, and we are preparing for a variety of other developments. Honestly speaking, we have exceeded our expectations by so much my head is spinning.

There is no doubt the turning point that created this hit came from this work that led the printing of other comics. Its stout and well-balanced construction works with its quick pacing and readability to open up the world of *Maoyu*. I am deeply grateful.

I hope the artist can keep up this pace and remains mindful of his health.

Maoyu Maou Yuusha Supervisor
SHOJI MASUDA

We began working on the project to novelize the story of *Maoyu* that was written on an online message board last May just after Golden Week. I recall meeting the author Mamare Touno for the first time about one month later.

When we met, we confirmed our goals were to create a book that would still be in libraries 10 years from now and to share a drink if it ever sold 100,000 copies. After various twists and turns we finally released the first volume six months later at the end of the same year. Immediately afterward, Akira Ishida's work began its serialization.

It's been exactly one year since then. As of now 350,000 total copies of books have been sold, the serialized comic has five total volumes including this one, and the drama CDs and radio broadcasts are a hit

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Maoyu Maou Yuusha **Supervisor**

SHOJI MASUDA

MAOYU : Archenemy and Hero
"Become mine, Hero" "I refuse!"
Volume 2

KADOKAWA MANGA

Art by
Akira Ishida

Original Work by
Mamare Touno

Character Design by
Keinojou Mizutama and toi8

MAOYU MAOU YUUSHA
"KONO WARENO MONOTONARE, YUUSHAYO" "KOTOWARU!"
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